

No 61,621

TOMORROW

Easy glider... Ronald Faux looks at the new emphasis on safety in hang-gliding.

On the road... A journey that rediscovers the splendours of old Syria.

With a backpack... How to make light work of a long walk.

Wheeling... The second part of the competition with a Ford Sierra XR4i as first prize.

Dealing... The writer in Stalin's pocket: the extraordinary story of Soviet apologist Alcxel Istoy.

Revealing... The costs of differential mortgages, in which interest charges are higher for bigger borrowers.

Social work to open its records

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Security in a move which overturns decades of social work practice.

Spain by-passes Maltese tactics

Spain is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to meet in Madrid next month, despite Malta's obstructionist tactics.

Maxwell rebuff

Three institutional shareholders of the John Waddington games manufacturer have withdrawn their acceptances to the takeover offer from Mr Robert Maxwell's BPC shortly before he was expected to announce he had won control.

Wales chaired

Lech Walesa was carried on the shoulders of chanting supporters after a stormy meeting at the Gdansk shipyard called by the government to explain its policies. Minister jeered, page 5.

Murder charge

Two leaders of the Ulster Defence Association were arrested as a man was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drum, of Provisional Sinn Fein, in hospital, seven years ago.

Beirut blasts

A French soldier was killed and eight others injured in an explosion in Beirut. Another blast at the Air France office in Beirut killed three Lebanese.

Two pits closed in swift action to test militants

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday issued its long-expected challenge to miners' leaders by announcing the immediate closure of two pits in militant coalfields regarded as test cases in the battle over economic collieries.

In the last days of Sir Norman Siddall's chairmanship of the board the industry's senior management has dismissed appeals against the shutdown of Cardowan pit near Glasgow and Brynlliw mine near Swansea, employing a total of 1,400 men.

Operating to a government diktat to hit miners' jobs as hard as possible, he said they will only stop when the membership hit back.



Ian Botham hitting a six on his way to his first century for England in 22 innings. Report page 16. (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Thatcher sees Alliance threat

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has changed her view about the future of the Labour Party, with a clear suggestion that she now sees the Social Democratic Party-Liberal Alliance as "the true opposition" to the Conservative Party.

Union poll reveals massive support for secret ballots

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government's assertions that its proposed trade union law reforms have the backing of rank and file union members received significant support yesterday from an internal union poll which showed that an overwhelming number of members supported the introduction of secret ballots for strike votes and the election of executives.

The survey of members of the TUC-affiliated Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) is likely to prove an embarrassment to the union movement's campaign against the latest union curbs proposed by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

He announced that the IRSF executive would be taking immediate action to implement recommendations of the poll although the final decision will rest with a special union conference in December.

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France is ready to fight the Libyan-backed rebels in Chad if they launch a new offensive against President Mitterrand's forces, President Mitterrand stated yesterday.

President Mitterrand said he would be seeking national talks to defend Cardowan. Its closure would be top of the agenda at next month's executive meeting.

Cup yacht designer may sue

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

Mr Ben Lexcen, designer of the controversial Royal Perth Yacht Club challenger for the America's Cup, Australia II, is the subject of a legal action against the New York Yacht Club, defenders of the trophy.

Oil drum raft's skipper saved by Spanish ship

By Richard Evans

Gunther Mieser, the madcap German seafarer given up for dead after his empty oil drum raft, complete with bicycle, was found in the Bay of Biscay last weekend, is safe and well.

French search and rescue officials told Falmouth coastguards last night that The Thing's skipper was recovered safe and sound.

American women hopping mad at bunny gibe

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

He has come in for strong criticism from women's organizations because of some disparaging references made by officials about Miss Barbara Honneger, a former Justice Department official who has created a storm by assailing the Administration's record on women's rights.

House spokesmen, said that the last time he recalled seeing Miss Honneger was as an Easter bunny in the White House Easter egg roll.



President Reagan: Plagued by the "gender gap".

350 jailed Britons may be sent home

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The first step towards transferring to British jails hundreds of Britons held in foreign prisons was taken by the Government yesterday when Mr Christopher Lush, Britain's Ambassador to the Council of Europe, signed in Strasbourg the Council's convention on the repatriation of prisoners.

Thirteen other countries have signed including Canada and the United States. Another signatory is Spain where 70 prisoners are on the case-load of the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad.

Follow the Leader



the quality scotch

Table with 2 columns: News, Sports, etc. and 2 rows of items.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said that the last time he recalled seeing Miss Honneger was as an Easter bunny in the White House Easter egg roll.

Unemployment and cuts in social benefits have fallen more heavily on women than men. Many are blamed by his "macho" image on defence and nuclear weapons issues. His

Task force sails into dispute

The Royal Navy will be left with only eight frigates and destroyers to guard Britain's approaches to the North Atlantic when a task force leaves for New Zealand next week, it was claimed last night.

The claim, in a Press Association report, was queried however, by senior naval sources.

The aircraft carrier Invincible will lead a destroyer, five frigates and five supply vessels on a deployment which will last until next spring.

The report quotes "authoritative sources" as describing the absence as a "calculated risk". It adds that 12 more warships are committed to Falkland Islands duties, three are in the Caribbean and one is in the Gulf.

Official sources added last night that the deployment had been authorized only after consultation with Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia.

Flagpole tied up in red tape

Villagers in Sadberge, Co Durham, have been given permission to put a flagpole on their village green to celebrate the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales - more than two years late.

The parish, near Darlington, blames bureaucracy for the delay. The flagpole needed special authority because it is to be put in a conservation area. Darlington Borough Council still has to give planning approval for the scheme but the flagpole may be up next year.

Cable TV firm plans arts show

A daily four-hour television arts programme is being compiled for cable television operators by British Cable Programmes, which expects to inject £2m a year in fee payments into British music and drama.

The Government has invited applications for 12 pilot multi-channel cable television franchises.

Thatcher to join world phone-in

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will become the first national leader to take part in a world-wide radio phone-in this autumn when she answers questions for 50 minutes from listeners to the BBC World Service.

Strike at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant halts production

A strike by 1,800 assembly workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port car factory in Mersey side brought production to a standstill yesterday.

The men are believed to have taken their action after instructions from Coventry, where negotiators from the Transport and General Workers' Union are discussing the company's annual pay claim, with the management.

All car assembly work at the factory was brought to a halt, although the remainder of the 5,150 employees at the factory remained at their posts.

The men on strike are demanding a £25 wage increase across the board, a reduction in working hours, increased overtime payments and improved sickness and holiday benefits.

The Ellesmere Port factory normally produces 38 vehicles an hour: 20 Astra cars, ten Astra vans and eight Chevettes.

A week-long strike by 1,300 boilermakers at Cammell Laird shipbuilders in Birkenhead Merseyside, ended yesterday

afternoon. The men had walked out in a dispute over work being brought into the shipyard from an outside contractor. They took strike action after 40 of their colleagues lost their pay for refusing to handle welded steel units supplied from outside.

The boilermakers, members of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, decided to accept a peace document produced after a week of negotiation with the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

The company has agreed to put the 40 men back on full pay, and according to a union official, the firm has conceded that it was wrong to use outside contractors without consultation.

Negotiations are to continue on the question of the men's pay since the management took action against them.

The ending of the strike will renew the yard's hopes of winning a Royal Navy order for a Type 22 destroyer. Failure to

win new contracts by next spring could mean 1,400 redundancies as part of British Shipbuilders' cuts across the industry.

Cammell Laird's managing director, Mr Alistair Lamb, said that the boilermakers' decision to go back was vital to the yard's future.

"It was an unnecessary dispute, but the men made a very necessary decision for the survival interests of the yard. It must be welcomed that the men have recognized that," he said.

Shipyard workers who brought work on a Royal Navy destroyer to a standstill on Wednesday agreed to return to work "under protest" after a mass meeting yesterday.

About 270 semi-skilled men had walked out at Swan Hunter's Neptune yard on the Tyne in a dispute over redundancies and the stoppage spread to the rest of the workforce.

A Swan Hunter spokesman said he was optimistic that the issue could be resolved.

Dismissed journalists wait on talks

By Ronald Faxx

Three hundred journalists in Manchester, dismissed by Express Newspapers over a Christmas working disagreement were last night awaiting the outcome of negotiations in London between the management and officials of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ).

The journalists work on the Daily Star, the northern editions of the Daily Express and the Scottish Sunday Express. They had refused to leave a mandatory union meeting on Wednesday at which they narrowly rejected a management offer to "buy out" their right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. About half the members were at the meeting when they learnt that all journalists working for Express Newspapers in Manchester had been dismissed.

The union said last night that it had accepted part of a pay deal amounting to about 5 per cent but refused to give up the right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for a £250 lump sum.

Wary union support for youth scheme

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government is assured of continued trade union support for the controversial £1,000m Youth Training Scheme (YTS) after the publication today of a TUC guide which urges cooperation.

TUC commitment to the scheme will be questioned at the annual congress in Blackpool early next month, but unions are expected to give their support, with some qualifications, and will continue to press for improvements.

The guidelines were seen by opponents of the YTS as an attempt to undermine opposition at Blackpool, but most of the attention during the training debate will be focused on ways of ensuring that youngsters on the scheme receive the highest possible allowance, and join unions.

The Manpower Service Commission has promised places on the scheme by Christmas to all unemployed school leavers aged 16. Each trainee will receive a £25 a week allowance for the year's vocational training.

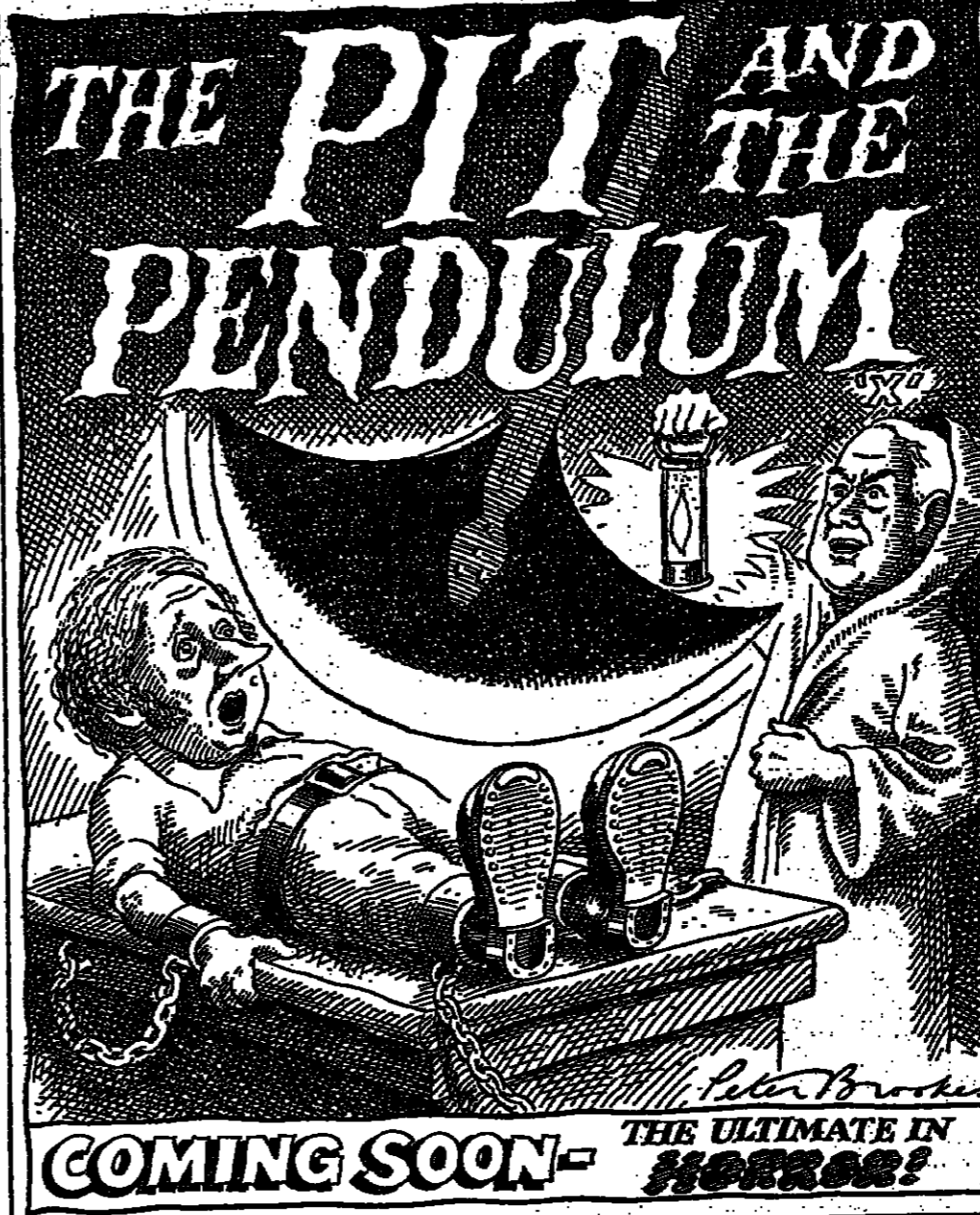
Launching the guidelines, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the scheme

would help young people towards a career, but some employers might try to exploit it financially and others might not have the necessary training expertise.

A meeting of leaders of 14 unions which have either motions or amendments on YTS at the Blackpool congress has failed to reach an all-embracing motion for the Congress, so delegates will have to choose between one motion critical of the principle of the scheme and a second supporting it with qualifications.

The National Graphical Association wants the TUC to reconsider its support for the scheme because it claims it is being used by the Government to create "a pool of cheap labour". The alternative motion, sponsored chiefly by teachers' organizations calls for stronger union participation and local monitoring of schemes.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has resisted union pressure to increase the weekly allowance to £26.75 in line with an MSC recommendation.



COMING SOON - THE ULTIMATE IN HORROR!

Court to hear BA appeal for shuttle ruling

By a Staff Reporter

British Airways' High Court application for a ruling on British Midland Airways' plan to operate a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast is expected to be heard today.

BA hopes to prevent its independent rival from competing on the route, after the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to grant British Midland a licence.

If the application succeeds the hearing is expected to be held in October, probably in open court. The case will challenge the CAA's interpretation of the Civil Aviation Act, 1980, in granting British Midland a licence.

Behind the legal move lies the independent airline's recent success in capturing a third of the shuttle traffic to Scotland from BA.

Meacher puts case for minimum wage

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Mr Michael Meacher yesterday abandoned his conciliatory tone in Labour's deputy leadership contest and said his rival, Mr Roy Hattersley, had resorted to a 10-year-old idea by advocating an index of poverty.

He said: "There is nothing wrong with the idea. The problem is mobilizing the political support to do something about it."

Mr Meacher, who has campaigned against low pay was speaking at a London meeting organized by the Low Pay Unit, the Fabian Society and the National Union of Public Employees, which is balloting members with an executive recommendation to support him.

He said the only solution to low pay was a national minimum wage. Well before the next election the Labour Party and

UDA man accused of hospital murder

From Richard Ford Belfast

Two leading members of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) were arrested by detectives yesterday as a one-time member of the Protestant paramilitary organization was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drumm, aged 56, the former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Fein, seven years ago.

Mrs Drumm was shot dead in 1976 while in hospital, recovering from an eye operation.

Andrew Tyrre, John McMichael, chairman of the organization's political wing, and two others, were being questioned at Castlemagh holding centre under the province's anti-terrorist laws after being held in dawn raids.

Under emergency legislation police can hold the four people for up to seven days before either charging them or setting them free.

Hours after the arrests UDA sources alleged that Stanley Smith, aged 35, who is accused of murdering Mrs Drumm, had become an informer. His parents and married sister moved from their home in north Belfast to new addresses early yesterday with police in attendance to prevent any trouble.

The RUC deny they have been taken into police protective custody, but by moving away the family seem to fear retaliation by extreme loyalist paramilitaries, who in the past have planted small bombs and fired shots at the homes of relatives of alleged informers.

Mr Tyrre, aged 42, is at present on bail charged with conspiring to possess information likely to be of use to terrorists. He was arrested at his home.

At the same time, Mr McMichael, aged 35, who stood for the Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party in the Belfast South by-election last year, went with police from his home in Lisburn.

At Belfast Magistrates Court, Mr Smith, from the Crumlin Road area, was accused of the murder of Mrs Drumm. He faces 11 other terrorist charges, including possession of a gun and ammunition but those were not put to him at the preliminary hearing.

When charged Mr Smith, who was 16 at the time of the murder, had nothing to say. After a lawyer for the defence indicated there was a prima facie case to answer he was sent for trial to Belfast Crown Court.

Spotlight on leopards



Spending on research up despite recession

Industry has increased its expenditure on research and development during the past five years, in spite of the economic recession, according to a survey of research and development in Britain.

The finding that companies have not cut back on research in response to hard times is a surprising contrast both to their behaviour during the first half of the 1970s when research and development in industry fell by 11 per cent, and to recent talk of declining industrial research.

The survey was carried out by the Technical Change Centre (TCC) in London for the British Association.

"The mood of pessimism about industrial research and development has been excessive", Mr Ted Butler and Sir Bruce Williams of the TCC reported last night when they presented the first results of their science audit. Their figures are more recent than the official statistics on research and development which, they said, were inadequate and published very late.

The TCC's main source of information on research in industry was the Department of Trade and Industry, which made available preliminary results of its 1981 survey on the subject. Those have not been published by the Government because the results have not yet been analysed.

Industry spent 63.5 per cent more on research and development in 1981 than in 1978, the year of the last published official survey. In that time research costs are estimated to have risen by 55 per cent, leaving a real increase in spending of about 5 per cent.

The TCC team is also investigating university research and development where it has found that "the amount of information about research expenditure is pathetically small and late in its publication".

Planet of iron

Defence policy 'based on myth of Soviet threat'

Reports by Pearce Wright, Clive Cookson and Lucy Hodges

another world war since 1945 would have been unlikely if nuclear weapons had not been developed.

Dr Smoker added his voice to those arguing that civil defence was a waste of money, saying: "The scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that such procedures would be of little or no value in the event of a nuclear war."

Professor Ronald Dore, assistant director of the Technical Change Centre in London, said that the West must take the short-term risk of trusting the Soviet Union in disarmament talks, for the sake of making a nuclear holocaust less likely during the twenty-first century.

He estimated the probabilities of future nuclear scenarios under different assumptions. The chance of a nuclear war breaking out in the next 30 years was about 15 per cent, he estimated, whether or not the super-powers begin serious arms reduction talks.

The probability of a big nuclear war would rise to 45 per cent by the year 2073 if the super-powers relied on a balance of mutual deterrence without risking mutual disarmament. If, on the other hand, they did trust one another in disarmament negotiations, the probability of a nuclear holocaust by 2073 would decrease to 32 per cent.

Dr Smoker, who is at the Richardson Institute for Conflict and Peace Research at Lancaster, challenged the related assumption that the nuclear deterrent is responsible for the very low level of warfare in Europe and the absence of a great power war.

Historical evidence showed that important wars in Europe, and between great powers, have been occurring with steadily decreasing frequency over the past 400 years, though when one does happen it is increasingly destructive. According to that trend, Dr Smoker argued,

Beating drum for ear trumpet

Ear trumpet 'still effective hearing aid'

The old-fashioned ear trumpet is still one of the most effective aids for the hard of hearing, Mr Michael Martin, head of the scientific and technical department of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, said yesterday.

Outlining progress in better electronic aids, he said that the disability often was not one of hearing what was said, but of understanding speech, even though it was loud enough. Significant developments in hearing aids were "few and far between".

In spite of intense research, the conventional hearing aid was still the only viable device generally available.

Medical research groups working on better designs for artificial arms and electronically-controlled hands faced a hurdle which was not, strictly speaking, a scientific one, Dr Ian Fletcher, senior medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security's limb fitting centre in Roehampton, south-west London, told the meeting.

The finer art of forecasting

The Meteorological Office is developing a system for forecasting rainfall with far more local detail than has been possible before, combining satellite and radar observations with high-speed communications and computing.

The system called Frontiers - Optimised using New Techniques of Interactively Enhanced Radar and Satellite - is beginning pre-operational trials

How to get the measure of a leopard's spots

In spite of decades of observations of wildlife and squinting through microscopes, biologists cannot say how the leopard gets its spots, or, for that matter, the other stripes, the giraffe its mottled pattern, or the butterfly the markings on its wings.

The question is a scientific minefield, but one into which Dr James Murray, of Oxford University, stepped yesterday. He proposed a mechanism for the formation of those marks, which give some creatures an added beauty. Yet Dr Murray is not a biologist by first training; he is a mathematician, albeit one whose discoveries have been applied in medical research and other fields of bioscience.

His address was an illustration of how findings in the exciting and fast-growing subject of mathematical biology are being used to trace open doors to paths of investigation into areas of ignorance.

So, how does the leopard get its spots? Dr Murray's mathematical answer boils down to a

Module approaches to teaching mathematics

A complete rethink of what is taught in schools and how was advocated yesterday by Mr Bob Aitken, director of education in Coventry, in a speech to the education section in which he said the curriculum should be organized into modules or units rather than subjects.

Mathematics could be divided into some units concerned with the mathematics of everyday life, some units that were required for industry and commerce, and some units as a preparation for more advanced courses.

Mr Aitken said: "At 14 a student might do only the 'everyday life' units but the important features of the system is that at any stage he could progress by adding further units." Such a system would cut across the school/further education divide and would mean that education would no longer have to be provided in an institution.

There would have to be discussion about how long a unit should be but a convenient length might be 25 hours of teaching time, organized into five school periods each week or one week's continuous work.

Mr Aitken said that the present curriculum was not constructed to meet the educational aims considered desirable today. "An advantage of the proposed modular system is that it would allow a student to achieve a much better balance without offending against the integrity of subjects."

"It would probably lead to much tighter teaching since the learning objectives of each module would need to be specified, and it would facilitate change", he added.

Mr Chris Hayes, associate fellow at the Institute of Manpower Studies in London, told the section that secondary education had betrayed and disabled young people because it only met the needs of a minority.

"In its own terms it sends nearly half of all pupils into the real world marked by failure, without confidence or the skills necessary for a successful adult life."

In addition, most of the employment given to 16-year-olds was degrading and dehumanising and stifled their self-development, he said. "Industrial training is the handmaiden of this process, training people to perform tasks which exclude initiative and independent thought."

How to get the measure of a leopard's spots

measurement that is unique not just to a species but to individual animals; and he calls it the gamma-factor.

That measurement is derived from a complicated set of equations, which take into account the size of the species, the types of particle that are precursors to the formation of pigmentation of the skin, and the time taken before those particles are triggered into action while the animal is in the embryo stage. That switching-on of the particles varies between animals from weeks to months.

The equations that he presented are similar to some used to predict the formation of patterns of special chemical reactions that can be seen in a flat dish.

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صكوان الأصل

Social services told to show people their case records

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Services.

The guidance overturns decades of practice in which social workers compiled confidential files on elderly people, children, disabled people and mentally ill or handicapped people, in the expectation that their subject would never read them.

The department has been compelled to lay down rules on access to the files because a number of local councils have decided that they should be open.

A circular outlining how councils should make such files accessible asks them to set up safeguards to protect information from or about third parties.

The circular, which comes after a consultation paper issued last month, also wants safeguards to protect social workers' judgments and to consider the possibility that some people might be distressed by what they read in their files.

Elderly people, for example, might learn that they were less than welcome in their families, or children might discover that their parents had criminal records or a history of mental disorder.

Information provided by third parties, such as doctors,

teachers and the police, should not be disclosed without their permission. Records on children in care should not be made available to their parents without the child's consent, the circular says.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said yesterday that he shared the view that people receiving social services should be able to discover what was said about them. But some safeguards were essential to protect third parties, ensure effectiveness of social work and in rare cases protect the clients themselves.

Mr Peter Westland, social services secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday that the circular was flawed because of the unnecessary haste with which it had been produced.

"We are in favour of improved access by clients to their files, but there has been very little consultation on how it should be done", he said. "If there is a heavy demand from clients to see their files, there will have to be some vetting and it could cost each local authority £20,000 a year to implement."

Because existing records have been compiled on the assumption that their contents would never be disclosed, they should not be made available under the

new system unless the people who drew them up consent the circular says.

Senior people in social services departments should decide when sensitive information is to be made available or withheld.

Requests from children in care for access to their files should be treated in the same way as requests from adults; mentally ill or mentally handicapped people should be treated in the same way as other people unless they are incapable of managing their own affairs, the circular says.

But in most cases it will be necessary for a social worker to be present when files are opened, and in some cases clients may need special counselling to help them understand the contents of their records.

Robbery charge boys remanded

Three boys, all aged 15, accused of robbing a girl aged 12 of 8p in cash and a silver ring were remanded in local authority care yesterday for eight days at Balham Juvenile Court, south London.

They will appear before Lambeth Juvenile Court on September 2. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.



Emma Pashley and her brother Simon; both have heart conditions.

Operation for girl who asked for new heart

Emma Pashley, the girl aged eight who wrote to Father Christmas last year asking for a new heart, is to undergo a pioneering operation in the new year to correct her heart condition.

The girl, from Stockport, Greater Manchester, was given only an hour to live when she was born with her heart on the wrong side of her body and with the arteries transposed. The day-long operation will take place at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital. Her mother, Mrs Susan

Pashley, said yesterday: "We have got to give her the chance of life. The surgeons say that if she does not have the operation she will be in a wheelchair within 18 months and after that the outcome will be very bleak. We are told there is just over a 50 per cent chance of the operation being a success, and we don't really have a choice. Emma has deteriorated quite a lot in the last 12 months."

Mrs Pashley and her husband, a motor mechanic, hope the operation will be

carried out next January or February. "The surgeons say Emma's condition is so complex they have not come across it before and the operation is unique because although the techniques are not new they have not been used to such an extent on someone so young", Mrs Pashley said.

The girl has already had two operations. She wrote to Santa Claus with her brother Simon, aged 11, who has an unrelated heart condition and has since been fitted with a pacemaker.

Muggeridge rebuffs abortion campaign

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Irish Republic's Society for the Protection of Unborn Child, has suffered a setback with the cancellation of a tour by Mr Malcolm Muggeridge in support of an anti-abortion amendment he describes as "absolutely absurd".

The broadcaster and opponent of abortion has been inundated at his home in East Sussex by telephone calls from people, including Roman Catholic priests, in the republic trying to make him change his mind and retract his opposition to the amendment. He said yesterday: "I have not had one telephone conversation with people who have a grasp of the whole thing. If they are doing something like this, at least they could maintain a certain mental clarity on the issue."

Mr Muggeridge, aged 80 and a Roman Catholic, had been invited to take part in a whistle-stop tour by helicopter addressing rallies in favour of the constitutional amendment.

He said yesterday that when he saw the wording of the proposed amendment he decided he could not stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with people" and recommend the public to "vote yes" as he believed it was so riddled with qualifications that it would lead to the introduction of abortion in the republic.

"I cannot see how, if you are anti-abortion, you could vote for it. The amendment as worded will open the way to legalized abortion rather than prevent it," he said.

Mr Muggeridge said the republic had a law forbidding abortion and that the wording of the amendment contained "ridiculous phrases which qualified everything. It was a farce" which he could not defend because of the "absurd equivocations".

On September 7 the republic will vote on the eighth amendment to the Constitution which reads: "The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its law to respect and, as far as practicable, by its laws to vindicate that right."

Doctors and lawyers' organizations, the Irish Farmers Association, political parties and families, have been split. As polling day approaches, the campaign is plunging to new depths of bitterness.

The republic's Minister for Finance, Mr Alan Dukes, was accused of "conspiring with murderers" when he became the first senior minister to speak against the proposal, saying he could not "in conscience" support the amendment.

Police count cost of hippy trail

A two-week operation by Norfolk police to control a "peace people" convoy of hippies travelling to their annual camp in Norwich was yesterday estimated unofficially to have cost £300,000.

The police made 65 arrests, 52 of them for alleged drug offences, and evicted the hippies from land owned by the University of East Anglia. The campers had rejected an offer of an "official" site near a rubbish tip.

A year ago damage was caused in nine counties as the "peace" people's convoy of coaches, lorries and caravans made its way from Bristol to Norwich.

At that time the Norfolk police made few arrests and policing costs totalled £5,000. The cost of the operation this year is expected to be higher than the bill for policing Norwich City football matches for a whole season.

Rapist who fled bail is jailed

An American air force warehouse manager was jailed for three and a half years yesterday after a jury at the Central Criminal Court found him guilty of raping a German translator, aged 22, in Chelsea, west London in November 1978.

Andre Ataoudia, aged 27, who is based in Karlsruhe, West Germany, absconded from bail in September, 1979, and was brought back to Britain in May after extradition proceedings were instituted in West Germany. He was sentenced to a further six months to run consecutively, for absconding making a total of four years.

Mini is 24

The Mini, Britain's most famous small car, celebrates its twenty-fourth birthday today. Almost five million of the cars have been produced since the Mini-Minor was launched in 1959 and BL plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, still turns out more than 1,000 a week.

Bears shot

Two bears were shot dead by police marksmen yesterday after they escaped into the grounds at the zoological gardens in Hotham Park, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Youth remanded on Peak murder charge

A youth was remanded in custody for six days yesterday accused of murdering Susan Renhard, aged 21, in the Derbyshire Peak District.

A crowd of about 150 jeered and shouted abuse as detectives led Norman Smith, aged 17, a student, into High Peak magistrates' court at Buxton, Derbyshire. His head was covered by a grey blanket.

The hearing lasted 90 minutes. Mr Smith's solicitor, Mr Timothy Oddy, made no application for bail.

Mr Smith, of Buxton Road, Castleton, Derbyshire, was driven away in a police car. Miss Renhard, from West Hagley, near Stourbridge, West Midlands, was a student at Manchester Polytechnic. She was found dead at Cave Dale, near Castleton, in June.

Butter makers hit back with soft spread

A new soft butter which can be spread straight from the fridge is to be launched by the Milk Marketing Board.

The development is the latest round in the fight between margarine and butter producers. The margarine companies currently sell about 100,000 tons more in Britain each year than the dairy companies.

The new product is designed to overcome complaints that butter is difficult to use straight from the fridge. It will be launched by Dairy Crest, the MMB's commercial arm, but the board would not disclose details of the launch yesterday.

Butter makers hit back with soft spread

It is understood that the product will not be labelled butter because of the process used to keep it soft. But it will be a full fat spread close in character to ordinary butter.

Injured Briton held in Saudi jail 'will be ill permanently'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Keith Carmichael, the British businessman held in Saudi Arabia without trial since 1981, is expected to suffer for the rest of his life from the effect of injuries received while in custody.

His medical report, released to The Times yesterday by the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad, says: "We think this patient has a severe malformation of the spine which will, in his future life, restrict his activities quite drastically."

The report, signed by Dr E. F. Bettendorff, a specialist in traumatology at the Security Forces Hospital of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of the Interior, says that Mr Carmichael should be given painkillers and have permission to do physical exercises in prison to strengthen muscles to prevent further persistent damage.

The report of the examination, which was carried out at the request of the British Embassy, says that in the middle of August 1982, Mr Carmichael suffered swelling, especially in the left knee and ankle. Mr Carmichael alleges that he was beaten on the soles of his feet and mistreated by prison guards.

The report says that, as he was on his way to Shumaisy Hospital for treatment, the car in which he was travelling went over bumps in the road at very high speed. "The patient has sudden terrific pain in his back and X-rays showed a compression fracture for which he was treated in Shumaisy Hospital for five weeks. After removal

of the plaster he was returned to prison."

When examined at the request of the British Embassy he had severe pain in the back, especially when sitting. "Examination now shows general atrophy of all muscles."

Mr Carmichael wrote to The Times saying he was on hunger strike, which he has since ended, to draw attention to his plight. His contracting company, Saeem International, collapsed with debts alleged by the Saudi authorities to total almost £1m. Saudi companies are among those said to be owed money, which is sufficient reason under Saudi law for his detention unless creditors waive their claims.

Our Medical Correspondent says of the hospital report, which gives details of Mr Carmichael's injury, that the vertebrae had become compressed and the nerve leaving the spinal chord trapped. Sensory nerves leading to the thighs were affected by damage inflicted on the backbone.

The weight-bearing portion of the backbone had been compressed by 40 per cent of its normal height, which would reduce Mr Carmichael's height by about one-eighth of an inch.

He would be likely to develop secondary osteo-arthritis symptoms, similar to those of a slipped disc, and would also have chronic low-grade backache, with intermittent attacks of pain leading to his attacks of wasting of the muscles in the front of his thighs would also be likely.

Shuttle expected to draw callers

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

British Telecom expects a substantial increase in telephone traffic next Tuesday when subscribers dial to overhear communications between the newly-launched space shuttle and its control centre in Houston, Texas.

More than £100,000 was spent by British Telecom during the last two shuttle flights in April this year and last August. Next week's flight takes off and lands at night, for the first time.

The shuttle, the eighth to be launched by the United States, is expected to take off at about 6.30 am BST. Telephone callers wanting to dial the shuttle service can do so from two hours before the take-off.

In the past there has only been voice communication between the space craft and earth for 20 per cent of each orbit but that is expected to be improved by a new communication satellite launched last June. A sister satellite, to be launched next spring, will give continuous voice communication.

Next week's mission is due to last until September 5. Bad weather will delay the launch. The crew members are Richard Truly, the commander; Dan Brandenstein, the pilot and three mission specialists; Dale Gardner, Bill Thornton and Griss Bradford.

Shuttle number: 010-1-307-410-6272.

Finance firm chief jailed for fraud

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

A finance company chairman, Robert Millage, lived in a "make-believe world of self-delusion" when he offered firms cash loans at low interest rates, the Central Criminal Court in London was told yesterday.

After only five months trading his company collapsed with debts of £124,000 without completing a single transaction and he had traded while an undischarged bankrupt, the court heard.

Mr Millage, aged 42, of Abberley Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Hereford and Worcestershire, was jailed for three years for fraudulent trading, obtaining £40,500 in loans from a bank and building society, and making false statements in 1966. He was banned from managing a company for five years.

Millage, who pleaded not guilty, claimed he had "lost his memory" after being stabbed by his wife in 1963, the year he was made bankrupt. He said that as the result of selective amnesia he could not remember the proceedings of being made bankrupt.

Mr Ian Davidson, QC, for the defence, said Millage had honestly believed his companies were going to be successful. But finally he "refused to face the harsh reality of failure".

Judge Sutcliffe, QC, told Millage: "You are not God's gift to commerce. You were prepared to lie your way out at any length, but you are not going to win by deceiving honest people."

Computer to teach Spanish

By our Electronics Correspondent

A method for learning foreign languages in a quarter of the time normally taken by conventional means has been developed for home microcomputers by a psychologist.

The system, evolved by Dr Michael Grunberg, from University College Swansea, and called Linkword, has been designed to give the student proficiency in 400 words of vocabulary in about 12 hours.

The programs are being written for the BBC Microcomputer, manufactured by Acorn, and will go on the market by Christmas. Each course, of a dozen hours, will be split into two sections or modules, each of which will cost between £10 and £20.

The program provides a visual link between an English word and the respective foreign word, based on its sound. For example in Spanish, which will be the first language package available, bread in English is translated into pan. The student will see the screen of his microcomputer a colour graphic with bread in a pan. The student, the creators of the program say, is able to learn quicker because of his visual association.

Acorn says: "The user has a visual mnemonic which makes more efficient use of the brain." The language programs are expected to be available on other types of microcomputers. More programs will be written for other languages.

Kidney patients 'should threaten legal action'

By our Electronics Correspondent

Kidney patients who are refused dialysis treatment because their health authority has insufficient funds should threaten legal action, says Dr Roger Gabriel, a London-based kidney unit expert.

He makes his suggestion in the latest issue of the family doctors' magazine, Current Practice, saying why 75 per cent of the 3,000 Britons who suffer end-stage renal failure every year are refused treatment and what patients can do about it.

He writes: "There is one final plea that should be tried if a renal unit were willing to dialyse a specific patient but did not have the funds."

"The patient would be informed of the situation. His or her spouse would threaten the district or regional health authority via his solicitor that legal action would be instituted if he died of untreated renal failure. I expect a health authority would rapidly find money in such circumstances."

Yesterday Dr Gabriel, a renal physician at St Mary's and St Charles' Hospitals, said he knew of one successful case last year in the Birmingham area.

New picture of missing wife

The police have released a new photograph (above) of Mrs Diane Jones, the missing wife of Dr Robert Jones, village doctor at Coggeshall, Essex.

They believe it shows Mrs Jones, aged 35, as she looked on the night she vanished a month ago. Taken recently by a friend, it shows her with her hair dyed and bobbed in a page-boy style.

Butter makers hit back with soft spread

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Falkland's terms for Argentine trade

"We are going to have to accept one or two things we are not very keen on", Mr Blake said. Before last year's conflict he and other farmers exported mutton to the mainland and there were plans to export beef. In return Argentina supplied fuel and timber, which now has to be brought in via Ascension Island.

One advantage such renewed links would be that Argentina would no longer have a monopoly of air links after building of an airfield 35 miles from Port Stanley.

Mr Cheek painted a grim picture of working conditions for the 1,500 men likely to be involved in the airfield project, likening it to the isolation of construction work in the Sahara desert.

No road links the airfield site to Port Stanley and in winter it could take a day by Land-Rover to reach the capital. As a result, Mr Cheek thought, most of the workers would remain at the site, pursuing such leisure activities as fishing and bird-watching. The two men said water and electricity supplies were still under strain in Port Stanley. A number of people wanting to emigrate to the islands had been turned away because of a shortage of housing.

Concent over an Argentine attack had declined and the most people anticipated were pipework raids or a clash between RAF Phantoms and Argentine aircraft straying into the 150-mile air zone.

The garrison of several thousand troops had caused few difficulties for the 1,800 islanders.

Three face betting coup trial

From our Correspondent

Three men were committed for trial to York Crown Court at Hull yesterday on conspiracy charges arising out of an alleged betting coup involving switching machines at Leicester in March last year.

The accused, whose bail was renewed, were Mr Kenneth Richardson, aged 45, a company executive of Jubilee House, Hutton, near Humberston, Dr Colin Mathison, aged 44, a company director of Wild View North, and Mr Peter Dobby, aged 37, a horse-box driver of Hazel Close, both in Driffield.

They were jointly charged with dishonestly conspiring together and with others to cheat and defraud people willing to bet or to take bets, on the Knighton Autumn Stakes, a race for two-year-olds, on March 29 last year at Leicester, and on other races by falsely representing that a horse entered under the name of Flockton Grey, which won the Leicester Grey, which won the race at Leicester at 20-1, whereas the horse entered in the race and intended for other races was a three-year-old named Good Hand or some other name.

Mr Leslie Bell, for the prosecution, withdrew all other charges made against the accused at previous court appearances. He also asked that a High Court judge try the case at the Crown Court.

Club destroyed

The Regnum Club in Chichester, West Sussex, a listed eighteenth century building, was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning.

Remand prisoner 'fears for treatment'

A solicitor told magistrates in Birkenhead, Merseyside, yesterday that he was unwilling to have his client committed for trial because the man feared his requests for medical treatment would be forgotten if he did not appear to be remanded.

Mr Paul Malone, aged 38, hurt his face badly when he fell against a radiator on August 3 while in custody at Risley Remand Centre. Since then, his solicitor, Mr Robert Broudie, has made repeated requests that he be given proper medical treatment.

Doctors brought in by Mr Malone's family have examined him at Risley and said that unless he receives urgent treatment for a fracture he could be permanently disfigured.

Last week magistrates said they were not satisfied with a statement from Risley saying that adequate treatment had already been given. They agreed to write to the Home Office demanding a further investigation. Yesterday the clerk to the court told them no reply had been received.

Yesterday Mr Broudie asked the court to have one of the remand centre's senior officials or doctors brought before it to explain the situation. This request was refused and Mr Malone was remanded in custody for a further seven days until his committal on September 1.

Mr Malone, of no fixed address, stood in the dock with a swollen left cheek and a black eye. Medical reports have said he has a broken nose and a bruised jaw and his left cheek is fractured in four places. He has been in custody for nine months facing 23 charges including burglary, obtaining money by deception and impersonating a police officer.

Police take sex hunt to doorsteps

From our Correspondent

Police hunting the three men who sexually assaulted a Brighton boy aged six are to launch fresh house-to-house inquiries among local residents. They acknowledged that inquiries have failed to yield positive clues yet to the attackers' identity.

In the absence of "significant developments" the daily news conferences given by Brighton police, which have prompted widespread publicity and about 3,000 telephone calls from the public, are being cancelled.

Inspector John Bishop, one of the officers involved, said yesterday: "It is going to be a long and painstaking job."

The house-to-house inquiries will take place in the four areas of the town linked with the attack. They are aimed at people who may not yet have got in touch with the police because they have been away on holiday.

Those include the Beacon Hill area of Downland, pinpointed as a likely scene of the attack, where a boy was spotted to belong to a dog-walker, and where a couple heard screams on the night of the attack and saw a group of people, including a child.

Mr Bishop added: "There are still blanks on the road maps where we have not yet made contact with people in our house-to-house inquiries. We want to make sure that those blanks are filled in."

13 injured in coach crash

Thirteen people were injured yesterday when a National Express coach collided with a 30-ton lorry, at Cleve, near Bristol.

Four of the injured were detained in hospital, the rest were allowed home after treatment, police said.

The coach, which had been travelling from Paignton in Devon, to York, had most of its offside ripped out. It was carrying 47 passengers, mostly holidaymakers.

The crash is the seventh serious accident involving coaches in Britain since May. Because of public concern the Department of Transport is considering possible changes in the speed limits of coaches. Coach speeds on motorways are currently being monitored and Mrs Lynda Chalke, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, will be given the results next month.

Mr Alan Thomas, of Alderley, Liverpool, Hospital and Allan Youngs, of Glasgow, Hospital, are the only two men to have been named in the British Red Cross inquiry. Mr Thomas, 47, was a member of the British Red Cross and Mr Youngs, 47, was a member of the British Red Cross and was treated in the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

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East and West getting together

Angry delegates stage sit-in over Malta at Madrid conference

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain announced yesterday that it is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to come for a major East-West gathering here early next month, regardless of Malta still pursuing obstructionist tactics.

The disruptive tactics of the Maltese Government reached their nadir yesterday, visibly angering the heads of all the other delegations. The delegates, who had flown in from their capitals hoping Malta would finally relent, found themselves confronted by a Maltese junior diplomat who simply told them he had no instructions.

Joerg Kasl, of West Germany, described the delegates' tactics. Two of the largest available ensaimadas, the typical wheel-shaped sweet cakes from Majorca, were taken in for snacks to underline their will to sit it out. Several emerged to express barely diplomatic views over Malta's wisdom in alienating any remaining disposition to negotiate a compromise over its demands.

US signs Moscow grain deal

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr John Block, the American Agriculture Secretary, yesterday met Mr Geidar Aliyev, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, in what is seen as a further move towards easing Soviet-American relations. Mr Block described the talks as "constructive, useful and friendly", although some diplomats were sceptical, pointing out that the Kremlin and the White House remained at daggers drawn. Mr Block agreed there was "more work to be done".

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together on "issues of mutual significance". At a press conference Mr Block said the agreement - valued at \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year - had put an "emphatic end to a very difficult chapter in our grain trading relations". Under the agreement the Russians will buy a minimum of nine million tonnes.



Moscow mirth: Mr Block, left, and Mr Patolichev after the signing of the grain agreement.

East Germans given missile message

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic disarmament expert, yesterday held talks in East Berlin with Herr Oskar Fischer, the East German Foreign Minister, continuing the top level discussions he has been having there about the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany.

necessary to deploy effective kinds of operative-tactical missiles with a longer range in forward positions in Warsaw Pact countries. His warning was prominently displayed in East German newspapers yesterday. He also told Herr Bahr that the missiles the Russians would put in East Germany would reach their targets more quickly than the Pershings aimed at Moscow. But he added that an arms agreement in Geneva was still possible.

controversial visit last month, criticized the East German leader's remarks as being "little help". He said that the threatened deployment in the East raised the question whether the Soviet side was seriously interested in disarmament.

Uganda leaders conclude \$7m pact in Russia

Four Uganda government ministers passed through London yesterday after concluding deals worth about £4.5m in Moscow. They met a number of commercial contacts while in Britain, and appealed for investors to return to Kampala. Dr Luwuliza Kirunda, the Minister of Internal Affairs and leader of the delegation, said that security was now comparable with that in any other African country at a similar stage of development.

Insults fly as Cameroon chiefs wrangle

Paris (AFP) - The former Cameroonian President Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo renewed his attack on the protégé he put in power 10 months ago, President Paul Biya, calling him a "weakling, a swindler" and a "hypocrite". Speaking from his residence in the south of France, he said that he had refused a recent demand by Mr Biya that he should resign as head of the ruling Cameroon National Union which he retained when he stepped down late last year.

Bonn alarm at 'Times' view on Rhine army

The debate on the Rhine Army started by The Times is being followed closely in Bonn by politicians and military leaders who have expressed alarm at the idea of Britain's handing over responsibility for the defence of West Germany's eastern frontier to a German unit. The conservative newspaper, Die Welt, echoing the views of senior officials in Chancellor Kohl's Government, said that the leading article published in The Times on August 17 could have "fatal consequences" if the British Government were to follow up such proposals.



Seven killed in Kenya plane crash

Nairobi (AP) Seven people - four West Germans, two Italians and a Dutch national - were killed when their small aircraft crashed in the Ingito Hills near the Tanzanian border, about 85 miles south of here. The accident occurred on Monday but only fragmented reports had been received until yesterday. There were no survivors.

Rain caused school tragedy

Taipei (Reuters) - A provisional education commissioner has offered to resign after 27 girls were killed and 84 injured when a school ceiling collapsed at Feng Yuan near here. An inquiry has been ordered into the accident, apparently caused by water accumulation on the roof after days of heavy rain.

Two die in Berlin consulate blast

All that remained of the Maison de France on West Berlin's fashionable Kurfurstendamm yesterday after an explosion that killed two people and injured 23. The building housed the French Consulate as well as a cinema which was empty at the time. An anonymous telephone caller to

Agence France-Presse said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Asala) was responsible. West Berlin police said the two men who died and 17 of those hurt were Germans. Two French citizens were among the injured. The blast was the first reported

instance of Asala terrorist activity in West Germany. The group had given a warning that it would strike at French interests if France did not release the Armenians arrested after a bomb attack at Orly airport in Paris last month that killed eight people and injured 55.

Beirut bomb kills French soldier

From Kate Doerlan, Beirut

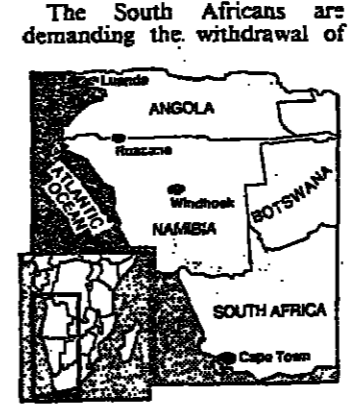
One French soldier was killed and eight were injured in a fire and explosion in a garage used by French peacekeeping forces in the Muslim sector of Beirut yesterday. A bomb at the Air France office in the Christian sector injured two Lebanese employees. The French command in Beirut said the cause of the fire in the garage was not known. Three of the wounded were in critical condition. They had been carrying a box of ammunition from a jeep when it exploded.

Angola pessimistic on UN mission

From Richard Dowden, Luanda

No one in the Angolan capital has a drop of optimism to sweeten the arrival of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, who flies in from South Africa today. Officially he is to discuss the implementation of Resolution No 435 of the United Nations which aims to bring South-West Africa (Namibia) to independence. However, the Angolans and the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), which has been fighting the South Africans for 17 years, perceive the details of the UN plan as purely academic.

from the Soviet Union and other communist countries. JOHANNESBURG: Señor de Cuéllar, saw for himself yesterday why the lights burn dimly in South-West Africa (Ray Kennedy writes). He was escorted over the massive hydro-electric power station at Ruacana, on the border with Angola, which was designed to light up the whole of the territory and a large part of southern Angola.



The Angolan Government refuses to open sluices on the Cunene river further upstream which means that the power station can operate only at limited capacity. The transmission lines, also, are frequent targets for sabotage by Swapo guerrillas infiltrating from bases in southern Angola. The Secretary-General, who arrived in Windhoek, the capital of South West Africa yesterday spoke of his personal satisfaction at being able "to familiarize myself with the situation in this country". He spent the rest of the day getting acquainted with the complex internal political situation of a country with barely one million people but several dozen political parties.

Swiss turn palace in fortress

From Alan McGregor, Geneva Some of the more cautious international civil servants among the 2,500 at the UN Palais des Nations complex have thought it advisable to buy individual "all events" insurance cover for the duration of the international conference on Palestine being held there from Monday until September 7. Others are conveniently going on holiday. Those remaining at their desks in the 14-storey conference building have protested at some emergency staircases being blocked for security reasons.

Salvador military shoot Italian at roadblock

San Salvador (Reuters) - Salvadoran soldiers shot and killed an Italian engineer when he apparently tried to break through an army road block. Military officials and spokesman for CEL, the state-owned electricity company, said Signor Vittorio Andreito, aged 33, was killed and another person injured at the road block on the Quebrada Seca bridge, 50 miles east of the capital. Colonel Francisco Antonio Moran, CEL's president, said that Signor Andreito, who worked for a company called Cogefar with a dozen Swiss and Italian engineers on a hydroelectric plant in San Vicente province, had left the dam site around midnight on Tuesday. Soldiers opened fire when Signor Andreito refused to heed their instructions to halt, Colonel Moran said, adding that Cogefar, contracted by the El Salvador Government to build the plant, did not blame the soldiers. An Italian embassy spokesman refused to comment.

The dam is financed by the World Bank and will open next month. Meanwhile El Salvador's Roman Catholic bishops have accused the country's legislators of passing a new constitution without proper evaluation of its provisions and at a time of "no real freedom" for conscientious action. The charge came in a statement by the episcopal conference that said the Constituent Assembly was following party lines in passing the draft constitution. GUATEMALA: President Mejía Victores of Guatemala said in his first news conference since taking power two weeks ago that he would retain a new tax imposed by his predecessor (Reuters reports). The move surprised some diplomats, who had regarded the new value-added tax as one of the main reasons for the coup.

Baby expelled

Rome (AP) - Italy has expelled a two-month-old Venezuelan girl who spent seven days in a Rome airport transit lounge after a legal tangle over her adoption. She was put on board a flight for Caracas, accompanied by a childless Sicilian couple who had brought her to Rome last week.

Bride's suicide

Delhi (AFP) - A teenage bride burnt herself to death, saying that her in-laws had refused her food as part of pressure tactics to force her father to increase her dowry. It was the latest in a long series of "dowry deaths".

Hijack appeal

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korean prosecutors are appealing for heavier sentences on six Chinese given six years for hijacking a Chinese airliner to Seoul in May. China has said the sentences are too lenient.

Colombo visitor

Colombo - Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, the Indian special envoy, arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday for discussions with President Jayewardene after the recent attacks on Tamils.

Burma riot

Rangoon (AP) - Muslims' houses, shops and mosques were destroyed in Yandooon, 50 miles east of the Burmese capital, after a quarrel between a Muslim medicine vendor and his Buddhist customers.

Hit reprieved

Pretoria (AFP) - A ten-year ban on the film soundtrack of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical hit, Jesus Christ Superstar, has been lifted by the South African censors.

Train deaths

Bangkok (AFP) - Eight people were killed and nine seriously injured in a train crash near Chumphorn, 275 miles south of here.

Factory blast

Rome (AFP) - An explosion destroyed a fireworks factory in Borgorose, 60 miles north of here, killing five people. A sixth person was reported missing.

China in space

Peking (Reuters) - An experimental Chinese satellite has returned to Earth after a successful five-day mission.

Leg appeal

Peking (Reuters) - A Chinese hosiery factory is marketing scented stockings. In addition to being transparent, soft and elastic, they have a fragrance which will last through at least 10 washings, "according to the Peking Daily".

From ballot box to court in Nigeria

Lagos (AFP) - With the outcome of three out of Nigeria's five presidential and general elections known, the action is gradually shifting from the political soap-box to the court rooms where defeated candidates will be contesting the results. Since the Federal Electoral Commission declared President Shagari, candidate of the ruling National Party of Nigeria, winner of the August 6 presidential poll with more than 12 million votes, some four million ahead of the runner-up, his opponents of the other five parties have alleged ballot-rigging and other electoral malpractices.

Israel cements trade and aid ties with Liberia

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem The state visit to Israel by General Samuel Doe, Liberian leader, ends today after expressions of satisfaction on both sides over the signing of an agreement which would involve the rapid dispatch of Israeli experts to Monrovia. According to the pact, the Israeli assistance in the first instance will be limited to agriculture, shipping, road building and the reorganization of Liberia's national airline. Details of military aid and intelligence cooperation have not been made public. In diplomatic circles, it is considered that Israel has done as much as possible in its present dire economic circumstances to repay General Doe for becoming the first African head of state to visit Jerusalem since 26 African countries broke ties in 1973. Officials here are optimistic that the aid package and the cordiality extended to the large Liberian party will encourage other African states to renew relations. Talks about a resumption of ties with the Central African Republic took place recently. General Doe - who cancelled a press conference yesterday because of "fatigue" - has reiterated by confirming that Liberia will become the third country to site its Embassy in Jerusalem rather than Tel Aviv.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a note.

Canadian Liberal Party backbenchers clamour for Trudeau's resignation

Mr Pierre Trudeau's ears must be burning since the Canadian Prime Minister left on a European holiday with his three sons more than a week ago, there has been an unprecedented outbreak of calls for his resignation from backbench MPs of his Liberal Party.

And this week, to add to his tribulations, a Cabinet minister sworn in 10 days earlier suddenly quit for undisclosed personal reasons. He was Mr Roger Simmons, Minister for Mines and Newfoundland's representative in the Cabinet. He has been an MP since 1979.

Suddenly, the Prime Minister's hold on the party and on power seems to have become extremely weak.

Several Liberal MPs interviewed in a survey by the Canadian Press news agency stated their belief - on the record - that he should step down.

Perhaps the bluntest of the seven was Mr John Reid, a former Minister for Federal-Provincial Relations who was passed over when Mr Trudeau put together a new Cabinet on regaining power in 1980.

"I believe it's time for Mr Trudeau to go," Mr Reid, who represents a north-western Ontario riding, said. "He's completed his agenda and I don't know what he is sticking around for."

From John Best, Ottawa

Until now, Mr Trudeau's position has been so unchallengeable and his control over the party caucus so strict, that such a demonstration would have been unthinkable.

That it should be happening indicates that a growing number of Liberals view him as a liability and - just as important - that they feel their own political futures are best served by trying to hasten his departure.

A recent devastating Gallup poll no doubt convinced some that they no longer have anything to lose by speaking out. It showed the opposition Progressive Conservatives leading the Liberals by the biggest margin yet in voter support nationally: 55 per cent to 27 per cent, with the New Democratic Party at 16 per cent.

Members of the Liberal majority in the Commons are plainly worried about their chances of surviving the next election.

"I tell you, it's not easy being a Liberal MP these days," a senior Progressive Liberal from south-western Ontario recently remarked the other day over lunch in one of the parliamentary cafeterias.

He was in Ottawa for a few days from summer holidays in his constituency, where feelings against the Government are running high.

Since returning to power in 1980 after a nine-month Tory tenure of office, the Liberals under Mr Trudeau have had the misfortune of presiding over the worst recession in Canada's post-war history.

The Liberals are reaping the whirlwind - or so it appears - for their haste in engineering the overthrow of the Tory minority government and snatching back power, which in 1980 they had had for 38 of the previous 45 years.

As it turned out they could not have picked a worse time to return to office, with the economic downturn deepening almost everywhere.

Mr Trudeau, who has been in office since 1968 except for the brief Tory interlude, is the focus of much of the frustration and discontent felt by Liberals as their party's fortunes tumble.

The president of the party, Mrs Iona Campagnolo, summed up the feelings of many Liberals, and the hope of many others, when she said recently that the public's dissatisfaction is with the Prime Minister, not the Liberal Party.

In line with that, a senior adviser to Mr Trudeau was later quoted as saying the Prime Minister will probably announce his resignation by Christmas. In fact, he may no longer have much choice.

Minister is jeered and booed in Gdansk

Gdansk (AP, Reuters) - Workers at the Lenin shipyard here greeted Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowicki, the deputy Prime Minister, with boos, whistles and hisses yesterday.

When he finally began his address at 4 pm it was to between 1,500 and 2,000 workers packed into a hall designed to hold 800.

Meanwhile, workers at the entrance to the shipyard said that a go-slow was in progress in many of the workshops.

The crowd outside the meeting hall grew steadily as a contingent of militia moved into place round the monument to victims of the workers' revolt to December 1970, a traditional Solidarity rallying point next to the shipyards.

Earlier, the Government stepped up its propaganda barrage to discredit Solidarity in advance of possible protests at the end of the month to mark the anniversary of the creation of the independent trade union.

The campaign included only a brief reference to Mr Wladyslaw Harelak, the underground leader in Cracow who appeared on television on Tuesday to announce that he was giving up his struggle and was freed under an amnesty.

Newspapers gave prominence to a report by the PAP news agency that a call for a work slow-down at the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk, the birthplace of Solidarity, had failed.



Thousands follow Aquino coffin

Mourners marching behind the coffin of Benigno Aquino in Manila yesterday. The huge crowds waved placards such as "Remember Ninoy", the nickname of the murdered Filipino opposition leader (Reuters reports).

Eyewitnesses said the crowds following the coffin from the Aquino family home to Santo Domingo church about a mile away were almost double the police estimate of 60,000.

Mr Aquino's widow, Corason, returned from the United States with their five children on Wednesday night for the funeral.

The Philippines' police chief, Major-General Fidel Ramos, said yesterday contingency plans had been drawn up against possible disturbances when large numbers of people arrived in Manila for the funeral, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday.

Vanishing politician deported to Austria

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

A former Austrian parliamentarian who disappeared under mysterious circumstances while on holiday in Italy two years ago will be deported from New Zealand to his homeland to face fraud charges.

Walter Paul Renner, aged 37, described by his lawyer as a "political hot potato", was convicted in Auckland yesterday on two immigration charges.

Renner was a leading figure in a property development company which had accumulated debts totalling \$1.5m. His counsel, Mr Kevin Gould, told the court that the sum involved in fraud charges against him amounted to \$40,000.

Renner disappeared on September 5, 1981. His clothes were found on a beach and he was presumed to have drowned. He is understood to have travelled first to England before arriving in New Zealand in November, 1981.

Under an alias he found work as a machine operator.

Mr Gould said Renner had become an MP in Austria in 1979. His liberal views had led to his falling out with the party leader early in 1981.

According to Mr Gould the strife he caused made him a hot potato. At the same time the company of which he was managing director got into "tremendous financial difficulties" and he resigned.

'Dead' Argentine escapes captors

Buenos Aires (Reuters, AP) - Señor Patricio Kelly, a key witness in several human rights court cases who was kidnapped in Buenos Aires on Wednesday, is alive and well after escaping from his captors.

Earlier reports said he had been found dead outside the capital.

Señor Kelly told the police he got away by jumping out of a car. His wife Irma told the independent news agency Noticias Argentinas that he escaped near the Buenos Aires suburb of Ingeniero Maschwitz.

"Patricio is very hurt because he jumped out from the moving car," she said.

An eyewitness reported that Señor Kelly, running and shouting, "I'm Kelly, I'm Kelly, tell the police and Buenos Aires", appeared at an Argentine Automobile club station. A police car took him to a police station.

Señor Kelly, a maverick figure in Argentine politics, was kidnapped by a group of armed men in the capital shortly after leaving his home by car for the city centre.

A police car was on the spot but did not intervene to help him. Señor Kelly was beaten up and driven off in his own car, eye witnesses said.

A police statement said one of the kidnapers was a man dressed in the uniform of an army colonel. He told the policemen that only a minor traffic accident had taken place and they drove off.

A clandestine group calling itself "Free Argentines" claimed that it had kidnapped and killed Señor Kelly.

In a brief news conference in front of his suburban home Señor Kelly refused to say how he escaped. His face bruised and cut, he said he had presented a criminal court judge "not to talk" about his experience.

But in a subsequent interview with a Buenos Aires radio station he identified his captors as a man "distinguished as an army colonel and a dozen psychopaths, old professionals from the union gangs, paid bodyguards".

At the press conference he said his abduction was designed to pressure him. He denied planning his own kidnapping to draw attention to charges he has made against former officials.

Señor Kelly once described himself as an "independent nationalist sharp shooter". He is a colourful figure who began his political career as the leader of a pro-Peronist strong-arm group in the 1950s.

Since then he has launched several political crusades against powerful Argentine political leaders which have landed him in jail on seven occasions. In 1957 he made a spectacular escape from prison disguised as a woman.

Señor Kelly. Political crusades led to jail

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Lawyer charged over sex tape report

Los Angeles (Reuters) Mr Robert Steinberg, a lawyer, has been charged with filing a false police report claiming that sex films involving Reagan Administration officials were stolen from his office.

"The people's theory in the case is that the films never existed", Miss Marsha Revel, the prosecutor, told a Beverly Hills municipal court.

Mr Steinberg attracted wide attention last month when he said he had seen sex films showing two officials of ambassadorial rank, a Congressman, two prominent businessmen, Alfred Bloomingdale, the late multi-millionaire adviser to President Reagan, and Miss Vicki Morgan, Mr Bloomingdale's mistress, who was murdered on July 7.

Three in daring escape to West by plane

Graz, Austria (AP) - Three Romanians yesterday escaped to the West in a crop-dusting aircraft, flying low to avoid radar.

They made a daring emergency landing near Rohrbach and asked for political asylum.

Police said the three were the pilot, aged 30, another man, aged 27, and his pregnant wife, aged 22, who was rushed to hospital at Harburg.

One of the Romanians is reported to have said he wanted to go to the United States.

© RAD BRAMSTEDT: Two East German workers fled across the border into northern West Germany yesterday (AP reports). West German border guards said the two men, aged 21 and 25, reached Schleswig-Holstein unharmed.

Civilians named in new Upper Volta Cabinet

Ouagadougou (AFP) - A new Upper Volta Government has been formed, mostly of civilians, three weeks after the coup by radical Army officers led by Captain Thomas Sankara against the administration of Major Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo.

The 15 civilians and five military men in the new Government, installed on Wednesday night, are very young, with an average age of about 30.

Captain Sankara, who was Prime Minister under Major Ouédraogo before being dismissed earlier this year, holds the offices of head of state and Minister of the Interior and Security.

number of ministers who were ousted after the May 17 arrest of Captain Sankara

The new Cabinet: Minister of the Presidency: Sankara; Defence: Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo; Foreign Affairs: Aron Diarra; Health: Sankara; Justice: Justinien Raymond; Police: Sankara; Education: Sankara; Agriculture: Sankara; Industry: Sankara; Labour: Sankara; Social Security: Sankara; Scientific Research: Sankara; Information: Sankara; Arts and Culture: Sankara; Tourism: Sankara; Environment: Sankara; Transport: Sankara; Energy: Sankara; Planning: Sankara; Finance: Sankara; Economic Development: Sankara; Industry: Sankara; Labour: Sankara; Social Security: Sankara; Scientific Research: Sankara; Information: Sankara; Arts and Culture: Sankara; Tourism: Sankara; Environment: Sankara; Transport: Sankara; Energy: Sankara; Planning: Sankara; Finance: Sankara; Economic Development: Sankara; Industry: Sankara; Labour: Sankara; Social Security: Sankara; Scientific Research: Sankara; Information: Sankara; Arts and Culture: Sankara; Tourism: Sankara; Environment: Sankara; Transport: Sankara; Energy: Sankara; 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MEDICAL BRIEFING



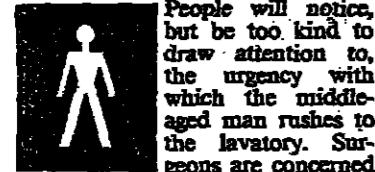
Pigeon peril for heart patient

Mr Keith Castle (above), the heart transplant patient, is home again after a 10-week stay in Papworth Hospital where he is being treated for cryptococcal pneumonia...

Until June this year Mr Castle had not given much thought to pigeons. However, as he has enormous energy he decided recently to repair his roof. Pigeons were getting through the tiles and their droppings were mixing with the dust of ages on the floor of the roof space...

Pigeons can also carry another form of pneumonia, ornithosis, caused by Chlamydia psittaci. Although rather less rare than cryptococcosis, it is however much more easily treated with a prolonged course of heavy doses of oral tetracycline...

Needless dread

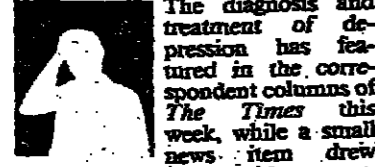


People will notice, but be too kind to draw attention to, the urgency with which the middle-aged man rushes to the lavatory. Surgeons are concerned that this conspiracy of politeness has given rise to a quite unnecessary dread which delays patients from having a necessary, statistically very safe, and quick operation...

Partnership problems

Scientists writing in the America Journal of Epidemiology have evaluated the effect of a wife's personality and education on the chance of her husband developing heart disease. Data from 109 marriages followed over 10 years show that if striving ambitious men marry women who have had further education their chance of heart disease is increased by 2.5 times...

New antidepressant



The diagnosis and treatment of depression has featured in the correspondence columns of The Times this week, while a small news item drew attention to a new antidepressant, bupropion, trade name Wellbutrin, which, it is claimed, can be effective in treating people who have failed to respond to other antidepressants...

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Correction

In Madhur Jaffrey's cookery article on Wednesday, the recipe for carrots with mince and dates should have read: "Five medium-sized carrots and 1 medium-sized onion, peeled."

It's just more bigger over there

The US came top of the list in a survey of children's holiday choices published this week. Alan Franks reports

If you have children between the ages of eight and 12, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of them is, where holidays are concerned, a nomadic, ice cream-loving, snail-hating aeronaut. Almost certainly, he or she is a thwarted Americanophile.

This much, and plenty more, emerges from a survey just released by MORI (Market and Opinions Research International). It was conducted for Thomas Cook, the travel agents, who were aware, like many parents, that the pre-adolescent sector has become, if not the seat of important summer decision-making, then at least a potent pressure group.

After all holidays, like houses and cars, are major items of family expenditure, and even if it is the parent who signs the cheque, it is no less the children who must live with the commitment. They derive much of their fascination from the fact that, again like houses and cars, they occupy the common ground between the two worlds of adults and children.

To influence the family's location for a fortnight, therefore, is to touch the levers of power.

MORI plumped for this age sector because, as director Tim Burns agrees, children younger than eight are hard to communicate with on abstract or hypotheticals. They occupy their own fantasy worlds so vividly that the matter of a holiday's physical placement is not of primary importance. Once over 13, of course, they begin to think in terms of adult behaviour and we have only ourselves to blame for the results of their apings.

MORI began with three groups of children, each consisting of six members. The first comprised girls of nine from working class families; the second middle class girls of 12, and the third boys of 10 and 11 from a mixture of family backgrounds. From these preliminary interviews was evolved a 12-part questionnaire in which 509 children took part during half-term holidays at the beginning of June. They were drawn from a broad cross-section of age (within the four-year span), social class, and region.

According to Burns, the process was a surprisingly educative one for parents as well as for Cooks. Under the code of conduct laid down by the Market Research Society, an adult must always be present at an interview with a child, and one of



the most popular parental misconceptions to be lanced during these sessions was that children have a sort of holiday homing instinct - a desire to return to the same place year after year.

In fact only 32 per cent wanted to go back with 64 per cent favouring fresh pastures and 4 per cent undecided.

Of those fresh pastures, North America is clearly the most popular - favoured by half those interviewed with Europe in second place on a 34 per cent vote. Britain claims only 8 per cent, level with Australia and New Zealand.

Sadly, these figures are a world away from reality, since just 1 per cent of the children made it to the States last year, 16 per cent to Europe, none to the Antipodes - but 78 per cent to Britain. The transatlantic lure is best summarized by this quote from an eight-year-old girl: "America's more bigger than all the other countries. The best bit about America is Disneyland. It's got three countries in America, it's got Washington DC, New York and Sidney."

Not that the badly under-subscribed Australia is without its romance, if you heed this 10-year-old blade: "I'd go to Australia, probably with a girl or something like that."

Burns says that, while he, like many parents, was surprised by the "wanderlust" element in the returns, the penchant for America was predictable. "As you can see, although few have been, there is a certain level of knowledge that all children share about the States, partly from the TV of course, but also from the importation of what you could call the McDonalds culture... the country appears to them to be bigger, brasher, livelier and more exciting, all aspects which are very important. In this respect, America is a childlike country."

It is not just cost that inhibits parents from taking family holidays to America; there are the four other disincentives of food; healthcare; heat/climate; and travel problems, none of which loom nearly as large in a United Kingdom venture. What parents are obviously failing to grasp is that "Abroad" is not just a concept, it is actually another country.

In the words of this nine-year-old girl: "Abroad there'll be nicer beaches and the sea is warmer, the beach will be warmer, there'll be sand." Sentiments echoed by another girl with three years more experience of these matters: "Abroad you get a better suntan than you would here." Yet the harsh truth is that only 37 per cent of the sample

have already travelled abroad, compared with the total of 79 per cent who still want to go for a first or subsequent time.

Parents also have much to learn about family democracy. In 84 per cent of the cases, the decision on where to go is taken by "Mum or Dad only", while the children hold sway in only 16 per cent of households. Girl aged 12: "Well, my parents decide where to go and ask us if we'd like to go there." Girl aged nine: "We have this quiz, who goes where, and my Dad normally wins."

Aeroplanes are the most popular means of getting there with 47 per cent of the vote, followed by hovercraft (27), ship (16), train (eight), car (six) and coach (one). Sea travel, of course, has its problems, as this 12-year-old girl explains so graphically: "You start to get your seasick, I love going on ferries, then you start to get ill."

Taking all forms of travel together, only 27 per cent said they felt sick - in some cases, like this boy of 11, for unexpected reasons: "Setting off you start feeling sick sometimes because you are bored and can't wait."

Among girls, hotels emerge as the favourite accommodation, for excellent reasons such as these, both from 12-year-olds: "A hotel is posh, you meet new people"; and: "In a hotel

COMMENT

Hooray for Hackney

As I walked home along the canal in the blazing sunshine, I thought how pleasant it was to live in this part of London. In view was a duck with eight ducklings, little boys fishing, grandparents walking pretty little children, and lovers dawdling. Where was I? I discovered that I have been happily living for the past eight years in a "no-go area for almost all except those compelled to remain there", according to Gerald Kaufman, in his column last Monday, and Paul Harrison, who has written a book called Inside the Inner City. What? Can this be Hackney, hub of the universe?

Can this be the place I moved to because I like it, where I could afford a house, and where the services were good? Far from fleeing the place, I propose to stay in Hackney for the rest of my days.

Not only can I walk to work, I can take any one of seven bus routes. The service is intermittent (as in the rest of London) but there is also the secret railway from Dalston Junction to Richmond, and the newly opened Kingsland station. Within a few moments walk of my gracious Hackney home I have two excellent public libraries, the church I attend, and a number of friendly shops.

All hours of the day and night appear to be worked and these are also the hours I walk about the theatre, returning home from the place and parties in the middle of the night without coming to any harm.

I have been burgled twice. The second time, with the aid of my neighbours, the police caught the burglars. The household in London which has not been burgled is a fortunate one.

My house, which was indeed in a sad state when I bought it, has been put in order by me. When I moved there in 1975 there were six derelict within 200 yards. Now there are none - all have been repaired. The bombed site opposite has been filled with council houses - not a dreary block, but a reasonable imitation of a London town house. I like the street markets, the frenetic activity of Ridley Road, the garden market on Sundays.

On Sundays the congregation at Mass reflects the population - Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, black. That variety is what keeps a neighbourhood alive. In Hackney we frighten the children with tales of dark satanic mills in Mr Kaufman's constituency of Corton, Manchester. None of us has ever set foot in the place.

Pelican, £3.95. Philippa Toomey

TALKBACK

Working with a baby in the house

Margery Roberts wrote last week of the impossibility of mixing a career with bringing up children

From Audrey Macleod, 94 Woodward Road, Dulwich. Now Mrs Roberts (First Person, August 19), get your hands out of that bucket of Nappisan and put aside your baby wipes. Widen your thinking and be glad you are able to look after your healthy, active kids yourself, for a career plus nanny/granny would undoubtedly trouble your anxieties. Relax and enjoy your small children now while at the same time working to change some of your inflexible attitudes.

May I suggest a modest survival kit. First, decide on priorities and job-share some of these with your husband, and secondly aim for a tiny oasis of freetime each day, however scant, and guard it jealously.

Keep your own interests going and your friends (the ones who accept you as you are, and be selfish and spoil yourself). This way you will be better able to meet the unending demands of others without feeling permanently deprived. Replace the grudging "I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone" by a more informed and positive approach. You can see yourself as entering an enriching period of growth and emotional development.

From Mary R Lambertson, 48 The Avenue Kew, Surrey. I am a visitor from America. May I suggest to Margery Roberts how I and others manage to do it without the aid of nannies or mothers-in-law.

I have two children aged eight and five and I have been working for three years for a magazine publisher in Washington, D.C. I can do this for the following reasons: 1. An employer who is willing to hire me for 20-30 hours a week paying my salary on an hourly basis. 2. A school which offers day care after regular school hours until 6pm. Actually, I have never used this myself as I like to come home with the children, but it is a valuable service.

3. A short commute which is only ten minutes in my case. 4. A job which one can perform outside the office. Primary times for a mother are Saturdays when fathers can take over and evenings and early mornings when children are asleep. This flexibility is important when chickenpox appears. 5. Domestic help. I have a daily



once a week which maintains my sanity and minimum standards. 6. A supportive husband.

The advantages of being a working mother outweigh the demands from home and office.

From Mrs Jennifer White, 9 Birch Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire. Margery Roberts is right - the only way a mother can work is to abandon her child to someone else.

However, I must object to her slur on child-minders. As a minder for the past five years, I feel it my duty to point out that we are registered by the council, our houses are checked for safety and first-aid provision and we are limited to three pre-school children at any one time.

We have an area supervisor, regular meetings and access to a toy library. We aspire towards being semi-professionals. Generally, our press image has improved since the "baby farm" scandals of the sixties, and rightly so.

We are not simply second best to a nanny. In fact, we have some advantages over the nanny, apart from being cheaper. Child-minders are usually mothers themselves and are used to children, indeed we enjoy their company.

From Mrs Susan Hawke, 24 Cornsiders Road, Great Glenn, Leicester. Margery Roberts mirrors much of my own experience. After 13 years at home with under-fives I know that I would be incapable of combining a career and the care of my family with any degree of success or semblance of sanity.

I count myself fortunate. My husband's salary is sufficient to enable me to stay at home to care for the family and although our lifestyle is relatively simple we have no genuine need for a second income. But let us spare a thought for the unsung heroine of the low-income or single-parent family. She often has no such choice and is forced to work

long, boring hours in an unfulfilling job before returning home to tackle the household tasks that take Margery Roberts and me a whole day to complete.

From Margaret Gulling, Almondhurst, Carters Lane, Old Woking, Surrey. I have recently resumed a career as part-time midwife after a three-year break in which I had two children, went to university, started keeping chickens and had a jolly good time.

I have been sadly disillusioned. In my own home I am the kingpin - sit as judge and jury for all family misdemeanours. My husband is far too busy.

Why on earth then did I feel the need to be important outside my family? I really don't know because the ghastly truth is that I am not! My brain seems perfectly capable but my hands seem to have become prematurely senile as they wrestle with new-fangled drip sets and fancy machines.

My personal confidence has hit an all-time low as I have been told by an eighteen-year-old that I'm putting on nappies the wrong way and have got my mask on upside down.

The final blow is, of course, it's not really My Very Own Money. It must go to the joint finances. I would be peeved, after all, if my husband claimed his salary as His Very Own Money.

From Mrs S. E. Minchin, 14 Hackleburgh Square, London. When Margery Roberts is 50 or thereabouts, I wonder how she will receive a request from her daughter-daughter-in-law to be a nanny (unpaid) to a brood of grandchildren, simply because their mother wants the best of both worlds.

Does it not occur to Mrs Roberts that mothers/mothers-in-law want a life of their own now that they are no longer "holding the baby"?

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



- EASY GLIDER: How safe is hang-gliding now? why more women are taking it up. TRAVEL: The present appeal of Syria's past; Carnival time in the Caribbean;



- FAMILY MONEY: How much should your mortgage cost you? SPORT: Cricket - the Fourth Test Match; football - preview of the season's opening matches.

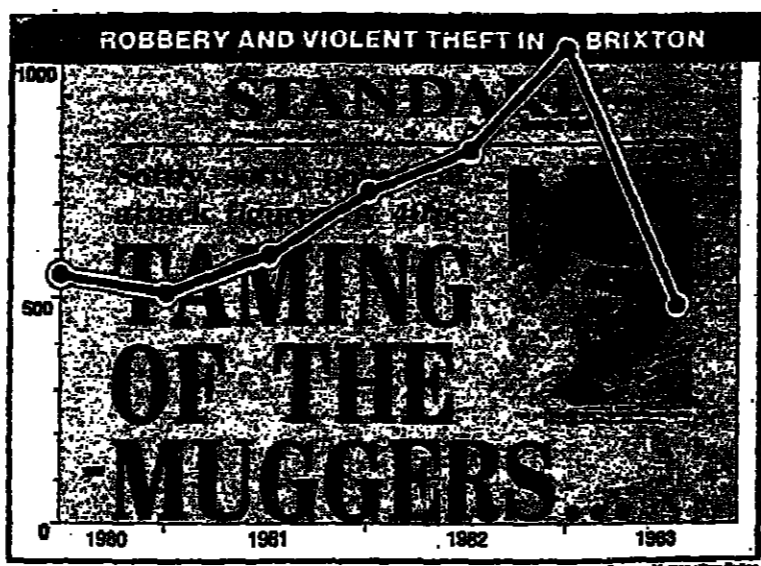
THE GREAT WIN-A-CAR COMPETITION

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; the Times Garden Project; Values on value for money for back-packers; Drink on Austrian wines; critics' choice of what's happening in the arts; selected guide to next week's events.

George Brock on the problems of interpreting crime statistics

Mugging: what is the truth?



To judge by the confidence of the headlines which appear as a result of almost any official announcement, good or bad, about crime rates, the figures should command respect for their accuracy and authority. Percentages and rounded numbers sound so scientific. But behind the headlines, such respect seems curiously lacking. Take Mr James Anderson, Chief constable of Greater Manchester, last year: "What precisely do the statistics tell us about the state of criminality in the nation and what do they suggest should be done about it? Very little, is the answer I would give."

Or the Police Federation magazine, in the same year: "No informed person regards the existing criminal statistics as the most reliable indicator of the state of crime." Or the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, in the House of Lords: "So far as the statistics are concerned, I propose to say nothing, except that they are mostly misleading and very largely unintelligible."

Last week, the police in Lambeth released figures showing that crimes classified as "robbery and other violent theft" had fallen during the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year (see table). This swiftly translated into "Muggings down 40 per cent" headlines, with an accompanying gloss from local senior police officers: "I personally feel that we are winning the battle of Brixton", said one.

No surrender

Where is the instrument of surrender signed by Major-General Jeremy Moore and General Menendez in the Falklands? Ian Kerr, who is marketing framed reproductions of a contemporary photocopy at £15.95 each, says no one can tell him the whereabouts of the original. It is officially denied that Moore has it, though the late Lord Montgomery certainly kept for the rest of his life the surrender signed at Lunenburg Heath. That document passed to the Imperial War Museum, with Monty's caravan and other papers, after his death. "Is the Falklands surrender on Maggie's too door?" Kerr asks irreverently. My PHSnop in Downing Street sneaked a look, and it's not.

Bitter

The Campaign for Real Ale has declared war on an International Lager Festival, and banned its promoters. Watney Mann and Turrnan, from next month's Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham. There is indeed little international about the lagers featured. Carlsberg is brewed in Northampton, and Fosters and Holsten Holselt come from Morlaix. Draught Diat Pils is brewed in Hamburg, but bottled at Isleworth. Lagers brewed here are weaker than their continental counterparts and, though they may be less dirty, their price is 10p to 15p a pint more than is charged for the more flavoured and traditional English bitter. The British Beer Festival organizer, Tim Webb, says: "Watney's are cynically using the festival idea to promote lagers only weeks before taking part in the biggest festival of traditional British beers. We could not let them get away with it." I'll drink to that.

Shrinking

As a bookseller Sigmund Freud has come a little closer to my office. His likeness sculpted by Lynn Kramer, predated by years behind the counter of Bernard Stone's shop in Covent Garden. Now Stone has brought Siggy, as old customers know him, to Lamb's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, and just in time for the street fair. New customers mistake Freud for an uncooperative assistant, and complain of his extreme taciturnity. This will not change, I fear, when he is shortly joined by Leonardo da Vinci.

Skin deep

Here is another winning sausage joke, this one from Mrs F. M. Pelling of Much Hadham: A henpecked husband was sent to buy some steak. "Here you are, sir," said the butcher "tender as a woman's heart." "In that case," replied the man, "I'll take a pound of sausages."

Best of Spike

Pauline Scudamore of Upper Cheyne Row, SW3, is guaranteed a pretty funny mailbag in the coming weeks. She is appealing for anecdotes to include in an authorized life of Spike Milligan. Milligan is at present in South Africa, visiting an elephant he has adopted and named Mrs Thatcher, and only yesterday my colleague on the *Daily Mirror* was reminiscing that he once found Spike in the early hours in Soho, sitting alone in a large duffin. When the lady who is now his wife was sent to Milligan as a temporary secretary, the first letter he dictated to her went: "Dear Pope, I am not going to be a Catholic any more if you do not stop experiments on animals. Your semi-loyal servant, Spike." Yet when I attended a reunion of the Spike Milligan Old Comrades Association I was surprised how uncomradely they were. "Spike Milligan's wholly unreliable," one complained. "My invitation to this party gave completely the wrong address, and none of my friends here got one at all."

How Poland's silver screen has lost its glitter

Warsaw is 8 p.m., the cinema booking office has been shut for half an hour - "sold out," says the notice - and inside the first mind-deadening takes from Film-Kronika, Poland's answer to Pathé News, are beginning to roll. Outside, touts offer tickets with a hefty mark-up to the waiting crowd, and cinema attendants, who have a special ticket allocation, negotiate privately with young couples fretting about missing the main feature film.

This is *She-Wolf*, the latest in a wave of horror films that include titles such as *Demons* and *Shivers*, produced by the Silesian studios. It stars some good actors, notably Stanislaw Brudnyant, but to no avail. It is clear after three minutes that this is a badly made film. Women turn into wolves, teeth are bared, eyeballs roll or pop out of their sockets, blood and tedium flow in equal quantities. The film is very popular. Some Polish critics say Poland's cinema has entered its worst crisis since the war, a crisis that has both economic and political roots. It is a smaller, more sharply defined,

statistical categories "robbery" and "other violent theft," which draw in a much broader range of offences. They cover anything from a shotgun raid on a bank or shop to a purse snatch. This crudity inflated the row over the Yard's decision to release figures for the colour of suspects in these categories alone. "The Yard blames black muggers", said one headline among many when the figures - which looked considerably less sensational with non-mugging robbery and theft subtracted - were announced.

In the case of Brixton during the first six months of this year, the local commander, Mr Alex March, readily admits that "I've been getting more than my cut of the cake". Experiments elsewhere with special measures for particular crimes have sometimes simply driven the figures down by driving the criminals into the set of statistics next door. At the moment, it is impossible to tell whether or not L division's criminals have dispersed to other places where they will attract less attention and publicity. Equivalent figures are not available for neighbouring parts of south London. Other parts of L division than Brixton report generally stable crime rates, except Streatham, where robbery and other violent theft are slightly up. One Streatham residents' association has already complained that its interests are being neglected at the expense of its more famous neighbour.

The kid glove general sitting on a powder keg

Karachi was upper-class and well educated. Her hair was cut short and the dupatta which she wore in deference to the Islamic dress code, was screwed up around her shoulders like a college scarf. She was from Lahore, always a cosmopolitan city. It is the principal city of the Punjab, Pakistan's richest province.

Lahore holds the key to the future of Pakistan. The disturbances in Sind are distressing to the martial law regime of General Zia ul-Haq, but they can be controlled. But if the Punjab were to rise as well, General Zia would be doomed.

The woman sat in her lawyer's office, sipping a delicately flavoured jasmine tea. Her husband, one of the Punjabi leaders of the Tehrik-i-Insigali, is in jail. The name of the party translates as "Movement for Unity", and it is one of the eight banned political parties forming the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy which on August 14, Pakistan's independence day, launched a campaign of civil disobedience, aimed at ending martial law, restoring the 1973 constitution and forcing immediate elections.

In a pre-emptive snoop, the martial law authorities locked away the great majority of the leadership of all the dissident and officially "defunct" parties, an action which has proved remarkably effective.

"People keep ringing up", the woman complained. "They are enthusiastic, they want to go out and court arrest, but they don't know who to give their names to."

General Zia's regime has followed up the pre-emptive arrests with shows of force wherever demonstrators have turned out on the streets, but generally it has shown great restraint. Lathi charges have often been conducted by policemen at walking pace, intimidating the crowds by banging their long, iron-shod canes on the road or walls, but without actually breaking heads. Police shootings, a common enough event in the sub-continent, have taken place only where property was being destroyed and life threatened.

A rapidly mounting death toll, and the killing of some revered figure, could spread the disturbances from the one turbulent province to the rest of the country. This regime is plainly anxious to avoid.

So far the techniques appear to be working, except in Sind. But Sind is a special case. The southern province has long felt itself oppressed by the rest of Pakistan, and particularly by the Punjab. Sindhis complain that their senior government officials are brought in from outside, that they have not participated to the same extent as the Punjab in the country's economic expansion.

A quarter-page advertisement in a Karachi newspaper this week illustrates why the Sindhis feel persecuted. It complains about the special tax that Karachi has to pay on petrol to ensure that fuel costs are the same all round the country despite the cost of transporting it to distant provinces. At the same time it objects to having to pay a higher electricity tariff than the rest of the country, where hydro-electric schemes provide cheaper current than Karachi's thermal generators.

Baluchistan and North-West Frontier also feel oppressed by the central government. But the Baluch and the Pathans have not risen like the Sindhis. These two provinces are

almost level, while the number of reported burglaries rose steadily - a change perhaps explained by the rapid spread of home insurance policies, which require break-ins to be notified to the police.

Other studies have shown that the rate of reported crime can fluctuate out of all relation to the real rate at which it is happening; others that the ways in which policemen write off certain incidents as "no crime" - a practice known as "cuffing" - varies enormously, from area to area. During the past 10 years, the ways in which local statistics were occasionally used to grab lurid headlines caused enough concern at the Home Office for the launching of several studies to correct some of the wilder misapprehensions. Much more recently, sterner measures have been taken. Since this summer, local forces inside the Metropolitan Police may not release their own figures until the raw material of the crime reports has been forwarded to the central statistical experts for vetting.

This still leaves the process private and ill understood. The compilation and use of crime figures is becoming one of the elements in the accountability battle being waged between Scotland Yard and the GLC and boroughs which have established inquisitive police committees. The figures in Brixton have also been, and still are, a weapon in the post-Scarman debate inside the police about crime statistics.

When Scarman's post-riot prescription first appeared, the police went on the offensive to discredit his proposals. The chairman of the Police Federation told his members that "saturation" policing was the only answer to mugging; muggings had doubled since the riots, said the *Daily Telegraph*; it was Britain's "top crime", said the *Daily Mirror*; and the Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard claimed that Scarman had undermined the police's ability to act decisively. All this has now faded into silence and been replaced by an optimistic "softly softly" front, and cautious celebration of the new figures.

None of this is likely to satisfy the voices calling for greater accountability for the Metropolitan Police, who would like, among other things, the power to examine and vet the machinery which turns out crime figures. In the words of Walter Eassey, head of Camden Council's police committee support unit: "The police are a huge nationalized industry. What other one of those would let so much activity go by without proper accountable auditing?"

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model of what is happening in the country at large. In 1981, when Andrzej Wajda won a prize at Cannes for his *Man of Iron*, 41 feature films were produced in Poland; in 1983-84 only 20 to 25 will be made. This is partly a financial dilemma; equipment is outdated, new cameras and video equipment are needed but everything requires more hard currency than the film industry has. It does not even have many zloties. Thirty-one cinemas closed in 1981, 53 last year. Audiences are smaller.

In an attempt to attract people back to the cinema, the Poles are treated to a staple of historical and costume dramas, comedies and horror films. Some money is spent on Western films - *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *The Empire Strikes Back* are both showing in the capital - but only those guaranteed to draw the crowds and that do not ideologically offend are shown. The chairman of the television authority has decided to close down the whole of the second channel - there is now no choice of viewing - because of technical

shortages, but as a result the natural testing ground for film-makers has disappeared.

The nub of the problem, however, is political. Andrzej Wajda, who is finishing a film about a Polish prisoner-of-war who is executed after falling in love with a German woman in wartime Germany, is the Polish film industry's biggest earner of hard currency. This is because his films are internationally acclaimed. But his *Man of Iron* - about the birth of Solidarity - cannot be shown in Poland and Wajda himself was edged into resigning from the presidency of the Film-makers' Union. He has also been dismissed as a studio chief. That means the industry's biggest earner has been denied any decisive say in the moulding of Polish film strategy.

The best example of how standards of excellence are being subordinated to political expediency came last year with a decision not to show a film by Ryszard Bugajski entitled *The Interrogation*. It depicted a woman, played by Krystyna Janda, who was arrested in the 1950s on trumped-up charges

and was brutally interrogated. It is essentially an historical film about a particularly dark period of Polish experience. According to a secret transcript of a meeting held in the Ministry of Culture after the showing of the film, most of Bugajski's peers praised its artistic quality but warned that "a film of such passion will evoke great passions in return". This was a damning criticism: anything that could stir up political emotions has been excised from cultural life.

The result is that Poland's most talented film directors - Wajda, Krystof Zanussi, Jerzy Skolnowski - work as best they can abroad and the crisis of the country's cinema deepens. At home a commission including a director, a cameraman and a critic has been set up to recommend how the industry can be made profitable again. Film-makers and audiences are hoping that the commission not only comes up with appropriate answers but also asks the right questions.

Giving the voters what they want

You can tell quite a lot about politicians from their holiday photographs: Harold Macmillan's penchant for pictures of himself in plus-fours surrounded by 12-bore aristocrats; Ted Heath's sailing shots; John Kennedy playing touch football on the Hyannis beach; Lyndon Johnson prodding steers on the banks of the Federals; Harold Wilson seen guarding the approaches to the Channel from his Scillies cottage - all these were highly revealing because they displayed the kind of person the subject was supposed to be when he wasn't being a politician. This is a matter of some importance in the image-building business, for voters like to identify with "the real person" behind the official persona or at least to share a little of his fantasy life.

Mrs Thatcher, paradoxically, is on to a rather good and characteristic thing with her disappearance from camera view behind the expensive respectability of a Swiss chateau, for it encourages visions of cosy bourgeois privacy to which a lot of Tory voters no doubt aspire. But it is Ronald Reagan chopping logs on his California ranch and thinking about whether he will or will not run for the presidency in 1984, who takes the prize in this department. His appearance displays everything that the ordinary American voter can desire - immense wealth and a healthy on-the-range life-style with a touch of the old frontier thrown in. The log-chopping play is not exactly new; Mr Gladstone thought of it first and even used to hand out the wood-chips to visiting Liberal delegations as souvenirs. But it effectively implies that this septuagenarian is a healthy, hardy man sort of type, well capable of carrying the burdens of the presidency for another four years, etc.

In short, this is exactly how Americans would like their president to relax and it is another example of Mr Reagan's apparently effortless ability to do the thing most likely to elicit sympathy and warmth from his fellow countrymen. Assuming that he does decide to run next year - and there is not a lot of doubt about it - it is the almost universal view of American commentators that this instinctive rapport will secure his election.

This is a phenomenon worth thinking about. What the conventional wisdom is stating is that Reagan will get a second term partly because American presidents normally do get second terms but mainly because the American people, if forced to choose, would rather have a nice guy in the White House than a genuinely effective president. It goes without saying that a man like Jimmy Carter, whom the American people came to the conclusion is not "nice" in the required sense, under the American system cannot be an effective president, but we are now hearing something more startling than that. The implication is that there is very little that could be perpetrated or left undone in American domestic or foreign policy between now and November 1984 that would make much difference to the outcome of the election.

Those who find this sobering proposition unpalatable have two possible escapes, neither entirely satisfactory. The first is to say that

backhand in the twinkling of an eye. The surface is hard on the ball, and wears through the soles of the toughest of gym shoes in three sets. It is cheaper to play in gumboots, and never to let the ball bounce, if only you can manage to hit your volleys in. And, whoops, there goes another one through the chicken netting into the matted jungle of thistles, bracken, and rhododendrons. I should think there must be several hundred completely bald lost tennis balls waiting on the net of where I am standing now. They will present a pretty puzzle to future archaeologists. A factory for manufacturing cult objects, or some sort of ritual trading system, like the shells of the Trobriand Islanders, would you say, professor?

The passage of time and gumboots has cracked the surface. The western end looks like the surface of the moon or the trenches on the sun. It plays like it too. It has been infected by a sticky creeping fungus like seaweed that manages inconspicuously to combine extreme slipperiness with extreme underlying abrasiveness. There is a distinct advantage for the home team against anybody who comes new and innocent to the court. On good days I fancy my chances on it against McEnroe - for the first set. I do not think that the grumpy old grunter would take kindly to the clouds of midges and horseflies that come out towards evening, filling the air and mouth of anybody unwary enough to open it.

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on independence day, when there would be many people on the streets and away from work anyway. That momentum has been kept up by the *surindars*, the landed aristocracy - working to keep the leadership of the popular movement.

But the campaign now needs another nudge to keep it moving. The trade unions are standing on the sidelines before deciding how to react. Organized labour has been kept more or less quiet recently by one or two large wage settlements. Those to benefit include all government servants, a piece of bribery that may well cost a good deal in inflation later but removes a present possible cause of discontent.

President Zia has been lucky with the weather too. Good monsoon rains have dampened demonstrators' ardour, and the floods have given them plenty to do at home protecting their crops and houses.

And even in Sind, the regime's policy of restraint, which allowed the first day's demonstration to go off virtually unopposed by the security forces, and which has still prevented the imposition of curfews of however limited scope, may have helped damp down the revolt.

But the fuse has been lit. Of course, fuses sometimes sputter and go out. All Pakistan is now waiting and watching to see whether this one will ignite an explosion of popular resentment against six years of military government.

Michael Hamlyn

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The kid glove general sitting on a powder keg

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A rapidly mounting death toll, and the killing of some revered figure, could spread the disturbances from the one turbulent province to the rest of the country. This regime is plainly anxious to avoid.

So far the techniques appear to be working, except in Sind. But Sind is a special case. The southern province has long felt itself oppressed by the rest of Pakistan, and particularly by the Punjab. Sindhis complain that their senior government officials are brought in from outside, that they have not participated to the same extent as the Punjab in the country's economic expansion.

A quarter-page advertisement in a Karachi newspaper this week illustrates why the Sindhis feel persecuted. It complains about the special tax that Karachi has to pay on petrol to ensure that fuel costs are the same all round the country despite the cost of transporting it to distant provinces. At the same time it objects to having to pay a higher electricity tariff than the rest of the country, where hydro-electric schemes provide cheaper current than Karachi's thermal generators.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

M MITTERRAND EXPLAINS

In his first major explanation of French policy in Chad, President Mitterrand has emphasized that French troops would not be restricted to "purely defensive retaliation" if attacked, and blamed Libya for escalating the fighting in the long civil war. This was a sensible acknowledgment that once seriously committed to military action, the French would find attack the best means of defence.

By stating that while partition would be unacceptable, a federal solution might be possible and that he expected the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and United Nations to help arrange peace talks, President Mitterrand was making it easier for the Libyan leader to back down. But neither the OAU nor the UN have proved effective in such crises in the past. If it does come to war, Mitterrand has prepared the French public and answered his critics by pointing out that the slow buildup of French forces had both postponed the clash and revealed Libya to all as the aggressor.

The growing French involvement in Chad requires such delicate handling in both foreign and domestic policy that the President's reluctance to discuss the issues fully in public is understandable. But his careful answers to questions agreed beforehand in an interview published yesterday in *Le Monde* have failed to silence complaints that the population is not being properly informed about a situation which arouses threatening memories of long years of bloodshed in Indochina and Algeria. Media rivals see the interview as a reward for the sympathetic coverage *Le Monde* has given President Mitterrand, and feel with some justice that a more open statement of policy is called for.

Few Frenchmen trust fully President Hissène Habré as representing their interests in Chad, remembering as they do his hostility as a rebel less than a decade ago, when for three years he held hostage the French anthropologist Mme Françoise Claustre. They fear that the presence of their troops may encourage him to launch a counter-offensive in the hope that the French would be compelled to increase their military commitment in restoring his position against Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who formerly, when President, also received French support.

According to a recent survey, little more than a quarter of those polled supported sending troops to Chad, while over half were opposed. President Mitterrand attempted to calm these fears by stressing that French troops would not be manipulated into participating in a counter-attack "France will not allow itself to be led where it does not want to go". This protestation does not, of course, exclude a counter-attack if provoked by the Libyan-backed forces.

It is important for President Mitterrand that he should not appear to be acting for Washing-

ton in attempting to contain Colonel Gaddafi's expansionism. He regards negotiation, rather than military conflict, as the best way of settling the war while preserving France's commercial interests in Libya. Last week *Le Monde* reported that President Mitterrand was irritated at what he regarded as US pressure and had emphasized that French policy is made in Paris. Some of that irritation was still present in his latest statement when he commented that "the Americans have been much taken up with us, yes, very much".

This attitude helps deal with the left-wing critics who are particularly sensitive about accusations that a socialist government is pursuing in Africa the gendarme policy of Gaullist administrations. The Communists have voiced their anxiety about sending troops to Chad, but after pushing the Soviet line so strongly on the Geneva disarmament talks, they cannot expect to continue in government if they adopt too closely the Kremlin view that France is being edged by Washington into a "neo-colonialist venture, a Vietnam, Chad-style".

President Mitterrand's exposition yesterday contained a tough message for Colonel Gaddafi, warning him to withdraw without causing further bloodshed. This will clearly be strongly opposed by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who can expect to gain little at the peace table. The Libyan leader is not famed for his moderation, but it is to be hoped that he will now realize that it is in his own best interests to respond in a reasonable way.

Those many thousands of people who join the Liberal Party and who give their skills, energy and resources without visible reward are by definition not individuals who are likely to sit and wait for a party "line" to be passed down from on high - however much respect and affection they have for David Steel. They tend to be interested in the formulation and promotion of ideas and there is an appropriate structure

to each transfer. A homeland asking for repatriation will have to make clear in advance the conditions on which it is ready to take the prisoner (including what it means to do about remission, parole, and so on). In agreeing to the transfer the sentencing country will accept these terms. Difficulties would arise if one country considered that the prisoner had discharged his debt to society, while the other regarded him as liable to further penalties. There is room for friction here, but also for compromise.

For many prisoners, including some of the most harshly treated, the convention will be irrelevant - for those held for offences that are not regarded as offences at all at home, for instance and those held without trial, like Mr Kenneth Carmichael, held in Saudi Arabia for debt since 1981. The 16 countries which have signed do not include several where the problem is particularly acute, though the Home Secretary plans to seek bilateral agreements with others. But the convention is a step towards the creation of an international presumption that offenders abroad should not have the penalties imposed by the courts multiplied by the isolation and even hazards of captivity far from home.

Neither is justice done to the major contribution made by the Federal Republic to the defence of the region, namely 12 well-equipped divisions and, after mobilization, a Territorial Army of 500,000.

It is true, however, that there has been a reluctance by West Germany to flex the military and political muscles concomitant with her economic power and geographic location. But it has to be said that where this characteristic has been apparent it has been welcomed, not least by those who have painful memories of the exercise of German military power.

It is not enough for Mr McTaggart to indulge in general criticisms of the "spying holes" of the careful international assessments that have been made. Pessimistic assumptions were made whenever gaps in knowledge were recognised in the scientific work undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency before the very low limits allowed under the London Convention were agreed. It is a hard fact that none of the samples of fish or other marine organisms taken at the dump site has shown any increase in radioactivity above the increase found in any other area of the Atlantic.

The expert group convened by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD reported clearly in 1980 that no hazard would arise from these operations. The London Convention itself makes the proposals for change should be supported by fresh

scientific evidence. No such evidence relevant to the North Atlantic was produced in support of the resolution in February 1983, referred to by Mr McTaggart. A further meeting of the NEA was held in May, after the London Convention meeting, to examine the scientific evidence relating to the use of this site; this again concluded that the objections to its use were without foundation.

With respect, Sir, a detailed scientific controversy cannot be conducted satisfactorily in the correspondence columns of *The Times*.

The international experts who have taken part in these assessments have published their methods and arguments in full. Mr McTaggart should equally publish his criticisms in detail so that they can be evaluated, point by point.

We would, of course, reconsider our policy if fresh evidence pointed to significant hazard arising from these disposal operations; no such evidence has emerged.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. J. ROBERTS, Chairman,
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AERE Harwell,
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Mr Skinner also quoted a resolution of the council's Employment (Grants and Financial Assistance) Subcommittee of April 18 to the effect that "the subcommittee will not consider applications for financial assistance from organisations with party political affiliations and the Employment and Development Committee be requested to concur with this decision". This is now the policy of the council.

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In the past full year the council and central Government, under the partnership powers of the Inner Urban Areas Act, have given grants totalling £412,000 to more than 60 local businesses, 15 of them co-operatives.

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Beeston Hall,
Beeston St Lawrence, Norwich,
Norfolk.

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Heart of dilemma for the Liberals

From Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, (Liberal/Alliance)

Sir, Bernard Levin's article today (August 24) on the Liberals contained too many mischievous half-truths and guesses to answer individually without missing the heart of the genuine dilemma that has always faced political parties, and which is far more acute when social and economic conditions are as serious as they currently are.

This dilemma is simply stated: should a political party hide or fudge the truth as it sees it for the sake of electoral success, and then hope that the public will not notice or will not mind if it says one thing and does another? Or should it present its analysis and its programme, even if unpopular, and seek to persuade the electors of its validity?

Roy Hattersley, for instance, now appears to subscribe to the former view. He regularly intones that Labour "has a moral duty to win next time", i.e., any package that can remove Mrs Thatcher from office deserves Labour support. Bernard Levin, and a number of other commentators, also believe that any debate on strategy and priorities risks offending the tender susceptibilities of our genteel and delicate electors.

For every Bernard Levin enjoying a surreptitious tendency towards populism there are a thousand electors telling canvassers that politicians are all the same, saying nothing before an election and another after it. If Mr Levin has his way that electoral cynicism will be given an additional boost by Liberals and will further delay the day when this country grapples with the enormity of our present crises.

My view is that the public desires consistency, respects integrity, and resents being coned. The electorate rejected the left-Labour alternative at the election not because it was highly ideological but because it neither rang true nor appeared consistent. The question for a party, as well as for the commentators and for the public, is the relevance of its ideology to its existence.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Universities unable to pull full weight

From Professor J. M. Thomas, FRS

Sir, The authors of the Merrison report on the support of university scientific research, June, 1982, estimated that two thirds of the nation's fundamental research is carried out in the universities. This is a far bigger proportion than in any other country. Yet the amount of money allocated for it is meagre compared to the scale, success and wealth-creating influence of that work.

In 1978-79 the total British university equipment grant was estimated (Merrison report, p23) as £27m, which is less than the annual sums allocated for the same purpose by single, major US scientific companies. It is to be compared with the total UK expenditure on research and development for 1978 of £3,500m, of which the Government provided about half, and with the £40m that Hoechst, the West German pharmaceutical company, has just invested in a new research department in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In the light of this situation it is ludicrous to claim, as did your leader (August 12) that the dual-support system for university research is breaking down because the universities are "skimping on research". The money is simply not there for the dual-support system to function properly.

In 1974-75 Government expenditure on equipment to the universities was savagely cut. Although some improvement has occurred since, the effects of that cut are still felt: by 1980-81 it had led to an

accumulated deficit on the equipment grant of about £220m. The universities do not have it within their power properly to replace obsolescent equipment; still less are they in a position, without outside aid, vigorously to pursue important new developments.

For example, a team of scientists in this university has recently explored a new magnetic resonance technique that is likely to serve several branches of physical science. The equipment needed to exploit it and train new graduates in its use costs £200,000, more than the university can afford to allocate to a single group. It will not be possible, therefore, to develop this work unless the Science and Engineering Research Council provides the bulk of the equipment.

Equipment costs of this magnitude are very common; they are an essential ingredient of modern scientific activity, from anatomy to zoology. Many of these costs should not be met by the SERC, the universities should possess adequate resources to support work and replace facilities that they themselves deem important. It is in the nation's interest that more funds are made available for properly equipping our universities. That was one of the recommendations of the Merrison report. Yours faithfully,
J. M. THOMAS,
Department of Physical Chemistry,
University of Cambridge,
Lensfield Road,
Cambridge,
August 18.

CDC in Philippines

From the Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation

Sir, CDC's primary aim is to take part in those projects which will be the most effective in raising the standards of living in the underdeveloped parts of the world. Mindanao is very undeveloped and a number of its inhabitants near the starvation line. The oil palm project to which we are committed to lending money will make a significant contribution to the prosperity of that part of Mindanao in which it is situated.

We have taken every conceivable measure to ensure that human rights are respected as far as the workers on the project are concerned. The Lost Command no longer has any role in the security of the estate. We have our own man resident in the area who is monitoring conditions at the project.

The opportunity to get a regular job with a decent wage has more than the material benefit for those employed. The fact that there is benefit to the country as a whole in the productive use of land which has been largely uncultivated must be in the long-term interests of the Philippines people.

CDC's reputation has been built upon development projects in the agricultural sector which have benefited both the people individually and the economies of the countries in which we operate - and also, incidentally, the British taxpayer. We have been operating profitably for more than 20 years. Letters such as Tom Clarke's (August 24) do not help either the people of Mindanao or the reputation of CDC. Yours faithfully,
KINDERSLEY, Chairman,
Commonwealth Development Corporation,
33 Hill Street, W1.
August 24.

Body and mind

From Mr Anthony Young

Sir, Your unnecessarily astringent editorial, "Physician heal thyself" (August 10) does justice to the "orthodox" medicine on the "scientific approach". It is the obsession with the method and the technology with subsequent loss of contact with the patient at a personal level that is at fault, not the "scientific approach" itself.

A great harm will be done if, in our haste to espouse the currently unorthodox, we lose sight of the fundamental scientific principle that the methods and results of any form of therapy must be carefully scrutinized to see if they are effective. Without these checks charlatans will be the ones that benefit, not the patients. Doctors are cautious of the "unorthodox" because they like first to see proper evidence that these treatments help patients - as I believe many of them do. Surely that caution should be encouraged not denied.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY YOUNG,
The Consulting Rooms,
York House,
199 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.
August 11.

Athletic hybrid

From Mr P. R. M. Burrows

Sir, Since it looks like a word derived properly from the Greek "tetrathron" (letter, August 23) must be, I suppose, marginally less objectionable than the obviously hybrid "quadathlon" used in your report.

Both words are, however, falsely derived from "marathon" in much the same way as that in which my own pet hate "triphthibious" is derived from "amphibious".

Why not use the established and acceptable word "tetrathron" instead of either?

Yours faithfully,
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صكنا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson in London and Geoff Brown in Edinburgh
Savage and elusive study of cultural oppositions

Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence (15)
Camden Plaza: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Lords of Discipline (15)
Plaza 2

Sir Laurens Van der Post calls Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence "this great and deeply moving film, the only war film I have seen that penetrates deep into the origins and meaning of war"; and, since Sir Laurens wrote the original stories on which the film is based...

mal and physical attraction to Celliers the two young men share the same kind of purity and innocence, and also a sense of guilt. Celliers is haunted by a childhood betrayal of his young brother, Yonoi was away from Japan at the time of an officers' revolt, before the war, and feels he deserted the comrades who were executed for their part in it. Older, and more resigned to life's demands for compromise, Lawrence and Hara find simpler and more human points of contact. Lawrence speaks Japanese and so is able to communicate in language if not in sentiment. Hara from time to time succumbs to human frailties like getting drunk, making jokes and committing acts of kindness as well as cruelty.

Oshima clearly first intended something far more open. We are prepared for the theme: the opening scene is the punishment of a Korean guard for having sexual relations with a young Dutch prisoner. It is evident again later in one of the most striking scenes of the film: Yonoi is submitting the whole camp to exceptional brutality, when Celliers breaks out of the ranks to embrace and kiss him. Yonoi swoons at the shock and shame. Between these points, though, the theme is fudged and evaded, explained away in terms of vague spiritual sympathy or laughed off in the embarrassed English way ("You know I think he's taken a shine to you").



Celliers (David Bowie) challenges Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto) over the threatened execution of the British C.O. (Jack Thompson)

Nagisa Oshima's films, but especially The Ceremony and Empire of the Senses, have all looked critically at Japanese character, society and tradition and the dangers of national preoccupation with death, with archaic codes of honour, with a jealous, hermetic, debilitating sense of racial identity. Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence, based on Van der Post's novel The Seed and the Sower, interwoven with the stories A Bar of Shadow and The Sword and the Doll, shows the Japanese in confrontation with people and ways of the West.

The setting is a prisoner-of-war camp in Java in 1942. The four main characters are neatly placed in quadrilateral opposition. On the Japanese side are the camp commandant, Captain Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto), and his sergeant, Hara (Takeshi). Their English-speaking captives are Major Celliers (David Bowie) and Colonel Lawrence (Tom Conti), who was the first-person narrator of the original Van der Post books. Bridging the gulf of nationality, war, language and culture are spiritual and human connections.

The quadrangle offers a valid premise from which to explore the confrontation of opposing philosophies and wills and the human attractions which can remain stronger than national conflicts. In the event, though, the exploration is confused by an excess of incident - beatings, outbursts, fasts, humiliations, challenges between captives and captor that look like the conventional stuff of POW drama. The sexual origins of Captain Yonoi's hostility about Celliers, too, now seem understated to the point of mystery.

not in its material (clearly anti-racist) but in its style. Fuller declares his allegiance to the most basic of cinematic tools: the intense close-up, the editing cut that yokes together contrasting viewpoints.

White Dog tosses us back and forth between the dog's fierce stare, the implacable eyes of the black animal trainer attempting the dog's re-education and a cheeseburger dangled as bait; the simple technique generates immense emotional power. Fuller also pulls off several virtuoso thriller sequences, outlandishly concluding one of the dog's attacks with an out-of-camera manning before a church stained-glass window representing St Francis. The script occasionally lags behind, though the right note of journalistic urgency is struck by the boyfriend of the dog's amazed new owner: "Come on, Julie, you've got a four-legged time-bomb!"

western characters he decided to "westernize" the script. It is hard to say whether this was a good idea: certainly the film now - surprisingly for Oshima - lacks any distinctive style, western or eastern. Bowie as actor is at the best of times unpredictable, clearly always in need of confident direction. This character is a chameleon, responding conscientiously to the needs of the moment (when Yonoi calls him "an evil spirit" he instantly leaps into that role, for instance) but never presenting a clear and consistent face on which we can fix Yonoi's yearning. The mysteries of the role are compounded by a peculiar and somewhat embarrassing little

me entertainment he lays on for his Japanese prison guards for no very discernible dramatic purpose. The professional attack and bribe of Tom Conti's Lawrence only add to the shadows surrounding Bowie's role. Oshima has always expressed a preference for using non-professional actors, which - apart from the obvious commercial advantages - may explain his choice of Bowie, Ryuichi Sakamoto, a slightly built and beautiful rock musician who is Japan's equivalent to David Bowie, and Takeshi, a thick-set and irreverent stand-up comedian with a tremendous following in Japan, give to a western audience the most impressive performances in the film. Of course it may be different in Japan (where the film is a huge box-office success: the audience is unaccustomed to war films which show the enemy at close quarters); it is said that the public complains of Sakamoto's mood and mumbled diction, and falls into paroxysms of inappropriate laughter at Takeshi's every move.

Lords of Discipline offers us an American equivalent to the peculiar combinations of brutality and superstitious ritual that make part of the Samurai code. Based upon a partly autobiographical novel by Pat Conroy, it is located in a fictitious but not wholly fantastic military academy in Carol-

ina in 1964. The hymn-singing is lusty, the discipline is killing and the zeal to root out racist and class impurities would do justice to the Hitler Youth. Young Will (David Keith), with a greater sense of individuality and justice than his fellow cadets, begins to question the myth of honour-above-all when he discovers the existence of a hereditary secret Klan within the school, dedicated to extirpating undesirables and in particular a black boy who has fearlessly defied the WASP traditions of the place.

The first Hollywood film directed by Franc Roddam, the British director of Quadrophonia, it is professionally made, gripping in narrative and very unglamorous. Grasping for the best of all worlds, it offers the audience a feast of sadistic thrills, while encouraging them to self-righteous disapproval of the perpetrators. The film is presumably only one of a series we must now anticipate following the success of An Officer and a Gentleman - from which the excellent leading actor, David Keith, is inherited. He has very able character support from the stage veteran Robert Prosky and a cold-eyed villain, G. D. Spradlin, who is in private life an oil millionaire with an urge and talent to act. It is a curious footnote that the film was partly shot at Sandhurst after American military schools refused to allow their premises to be used for it.

Samuel Fuller's four-legged time-bomb

It is hardly too-shirt weather in Edinburgh, but they are being worn just the same - the red ones scream "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence" (Oshima's film opened the festival last Saturday), the black ones shout "The Oshima Gang". Oshima double-bills dominate the afternoon schedule: despite some colour prints that have faded away to the lines of a tired lobster, the films have provided much stimulation, taking us back to the Japanese director's beginnings in the early Sixties when he plunged local audiences into provocative stories of social turmoil and wielded the Cinemascope frame like a clenched fist.

But the festival's undoubted highlight so far has been Samuel Fuller's magnificent White Dog, mostly hidden away by its bemused American distributor, Paramount, since completion in 1981 (though it has since surfaced successfully in France). Paramount's peevishness was primarily caused by its subject-matter (derived from a story by Romain Gary): how do you market a film about a German shepherd trained by bigots to attack Blacks and successfully avoid controversy? Yet the true provocation of Fuller's film lies

Documentaries and independent films abound here, quality, as expected, scowls hour by hour. Friedhelm Brückner's

explorations into the world's remotest corners present a varied spectacle. In Amakane (1979), his intrepid crew visit an isolated Indonesian tribe with pleasant gifts of friendship and medicines; alas, they also bring the dreaded zoom lens. In Split, made three years later, the camera's prancing are happily kept to a minimum: the modest lives of monks and farmers from the western Himalayas are relayed with uncluttered force and much scenic beauty.

The battle-scarred actor Sterling Hayden, subject of the documentary portrait Phoros of Chaos, looks from the Himalayas himself: bearded, clothed in sackcloth and sandals, with a mind half-lost in his own personal universe. Two young German film-makers, Wolf Eberhart Bühler and Manfred Blank, visit Hayden's riverboat in France and record his ramblings on drink, his Hollywood career and his craven appearance before the Un-American Activities Committee. Once one edits out the interrogative noises, the repetitions and anecdotal cul-de-sacs, there is fascinating substance in Hayden's words; we have to do the editing ourselves, however, as the film-makers seem even more dishevelled than their subject.

Television
Complex frights

Walter Cronkite, who looks very much like a contemporary version of Big Brother, presented 1964 (BBC1) with that heavily portentous tone which seems typical of American television journalists. He also had his own brand of newsmagazine: "Fame came late to George Orwell... What kind of man gave shape and names to the darkest fears of our age? Certainly a complex man...". And so he went on, adding the usual litany of bad news: Khomzemi, Afghanistan, computer banks and torture in South America. Then his own computer produced from the photographs of six dictators a composite portrait of the Orwellian tyrant; the result was the face of a Mexican bandit. We need not fear computers as long as they show no signs of imagination.

As is often the case with American programmes which attempt to deal with some important issues, it was interesting only for the fight light which it cast upon contemporary American society. There are now a range of ingenious phrases, for example, which shield bureaucrats from ordinary life. An explosion is referred to as an "energetic disassembly"; one is no longer sacked but "relocated out" or "debriefed". This is a programme, however, to be switched or deserted.

The sight of the Public Records Office, in Secret 1 (BBC 1), would have kept Orwellians content for days: here was the next best thing to a Ministry of Truth. Christmas cards sent by M15 officers in 1918 are still classified as secret: perhaps the idea of a "seasonal message" sounded sinister. And researchers there have only just been given access to a dusty confidential file, only to discover that it contained a synopsis from the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The programme attempted, in what was apparently supposed to be a jocular manner, to investigate the general secretiveness of British society and suggested, quite rightly, that most officials enjoy the experience of being entrusted with "confidential" information. It gives them something not to talk about. It seems, by the way, that civil servants really do hang net curtains at the windows of their offices; they are the Brighton landladies of government.

Peter Ackroyd

The Haifa Municipal Theatre presentation of The Soul of a Jew, reviewed on Wednesday by Irving Wardle in Edinburgh, is to play at Riverside Studios from next Monday to Thursday.

CATE
RUNNERS
CATE BLOOMBERG
ANOTHER TIME ANOTHER PLACE
The Ploughman's Lunch
CATE MAY FAIR
The KING of comedy

The GLC Presents
PARSIFAL
At the Royal Festival Hall
A film by Hans Jürgen Syberberg
starring Reiner Goldberg as Parsifal.
30 August 1983 at 6pm
Admission £2.50
Box office: 01-928 3191
GLC

Theatre
Unpleasantly promising start

The Killing of Mr Toad
King's Head

The wistful charm of The Wind in the Willows suggests that it was a dream world into which the author, Kenneth Grahame, needed to escape. David Gooderson's play shows us what he was escaping from: marriage at 40 to a powerful lady called Elspeth after a grotesquely winsome courtship, a brief consummation on what they called the "poppyrump", a long decline into lovelessness and withdrawal and anxiety over their only son Alastair's sickness and inadequacy. Dreading of Mole, Ratty and Badger after her husband's death, Elspeth (Deborah Norton) murmurs that they are so like him. Toad is the exception; surprisingly enough, Toad was Alastair. Instead of the testy

middle-aged playboy of the E. H. Shepherd drawings, Rupert Graves bounds on and fills the stage with pop-eyed youthful effervescence.

So his death and not his father's is the play's subject. Half-blind from birth, mother-smothered and worshipped as a genius, bribed for love by both parents separately, he found the outside world a nasty shock - Rugby and Eton were torture, he repeatedly failed elementary exams at Oxford and met his death at 20 under a train.

But, apart from ominous suggestions of a childhood death-wish, the tragedy unfolds very late in the evening. Most of the time Alastair is bouncing insufferably about while Old Inferiority, as he calls his father (Robert Austin), broods unobtainably or switches to his other self as Mole for an "Oh my, oh my" or two with John Warner's Ratty (also doubling as Quiller-Couch). Most excru-

ciating of all are the song interludes, retelling the words of Toad ditties or music-hall favourites to make obvious, overstated comments about the home situation and eliciting performances to match. A family calling themselves Minkie, Dino and Mouse hardly need it.

It is an unsuccessful and generally unpleasant piece, but still a promising debut for Mr Gooderson, who is sometimes a clever and interesting writer. Especially in the widowed Elspeth's solo opening scene: Miss Norton stiffens her voice and movements to elderly gruffness with impeccable skill, barking at the postman, grumbling about the price of salmon and dumping her feet in a bowl of water before settling down to read advice to a spiritual friend about contacting her two men on the other side. Laurie Denner's set gives her a dingy conservative living-room whose



Deborah Norton: immitable skill

parquet-pattern lino and dim watercolours have a mustiness you can practically smell.

Anthony Masters

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

LSO/Abbado
Usher Hall

Down at the Botanic Garden, they are playing the whole Ring in the Solti recording, dawn to dusk, to audiences of contemplatives seated in a circle round a pyramid of mirrors. Within the official festival Wagner's ecstasy was a little more modestly celebrated on Wednesday in a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra under Claudio Abbado, beginning less than happily with a bit of performance of the Italian-composed Faust Overture and ending most oddly with the middle act of Lohengrin.

This unaccommodating choice brought us Siegfried Jerusalem for scarcely more than five minutes as a young hero of unwavering voice, but it did allow more opportunity to admire the Telanund of Harimut Welker, expressively alert and musical, if not always able to ride the LSO's forceful accompaniment of his own grapes. The two ladies were Rosalind Flowering as Elsa in black and Eva Rásdová as Otrud in white, which seemed significant, for it was Miss Flowering who displayed the more awesome lower register while Miss Rásdová was all sweetness and light at the top. However, an enterprise as

cock-eyed as this is not a fair trial of anybody's ability to sing Wagner, and the most dynamic moments came from the orchestra and chorus. The LSO were vigorous in their punctuation of the opening dialogue and made majestic noises later in the act underneath colossally imposing work again, as at Sunday's concert from the Edinburgh Festival Chorus trained by John Currie.

Wagner's companion on this programme was Webern, wisely represented at his loudest by the Six Orchestral Pieces, Op 6, though in the reduced scoring, Mr Abbado presented them as a funeral march wreathed in flowers. All vehemence was rightly suppressed except for a scorching snarl from the brass at the culmination of the march, followed by the percussion in a frenzy of battering. Otherwise the emphasis was on delicacy of phrasing, from solo wind particularly, though through it all came too the cold ferocity of the young Webern as seen in a remarkable portrait by Max Oppenheimer included in the Vienna 1900 exhibition.

So far the only music entirely unrelated to the festival's Viennese theme has come in the morning recitals, the first three of which have all included music by Debussy. On Tuesday it was the music of his String Quartet, given a purposely unsophisticated account by the

Delmé Quartet, as if perhaps to merit it a place in the Viennese tradition. Textures were clear and forward, but not sparkling or clever; themes were played in the conversational manner of normal chamber music, not refined into super-exquisite.

The Delmé also included a rarity, Caplet's Cinq fantasmes on Poe's Masque of the Red Death with solo harp (John Marston). For as long as I have known of this piece, I have been intrigued. I am intrigued no longer. Paul Griffiths

are themselves sublimely free from the shackles of key. Often it turns out too, as it does in Zemlinsky's Second Quartet, that the crabbled motif and the airy line are drawn out of the same pattern of note: beauty and the beast are one. That lesson comes over most forcibly in the second movement, a set of variations that begins as a gypsy scherzo but becomes a much softer, warmer feeling before the carpet is pulled away again and we are left with a low second violin sounding over a mechanical accompaniment in desolation close to Shostakovich's.

There is a similar moment in the finale, entitled "Burleske" and sometimes cleft by the irony Mahler associated with this title. But, whatever the links with other composers, this quartet lives in its own world of silvery shadows, and clearly it is a world in which the Melos feel quite at home: disquiet and trepidation were qualities only of the composition. In Mozart's fugal-finial G major Quartet and Schumann's A major they seemed rather to be taking the music back to their place, where the conveniences included supreme confidence, strong inner parts and unquestionable phrasing, but not much of Mozart's levity or Schumann's faintness of spirit. Paul Griffiths

Northern Sinfonia/ Knussen/Fischer
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Robert Saxton's The Ring of Eternity, which was given its first performance at Wednesday's concert, was commissioned not by the BBC but by Oliver Knussen, who conducted it. It is a most beautifully realized vision, suggested by the first lines of Henry Vaughan's poem The World: "I saw Eternity the other night/Like a great Ring of endless light..." Saxton says he has attempted to translate the details of Vaughan's opening lines into sound, but on a first hearing I was less aware of any literal equivalences than of a piercingly well-imagined panoply of sound, strikingly clear in outline.

The image of a ring seems less apt to describe what happens than that of antiphonal exchange: from the initial laying-out of piano, trumpet solo and wind chorus over strings, the impetus is continually shifted between the string group and the wind group. Sweeping figurations accumulate power through close imitation (though the effect is not the hypnotic one of Ligeti's similar procedure but that of a positive, dramatic unfolding of each idea), and much play is made with a cosmic, trill-like passage of thirds.

Over this antiphony are single-line passages for the tuned percussion, and important, strident duets for the pairs of horns and trumpets: in an impressive moment just before the final climax, trumpets announce a rising theme in unison which is then split up with horns and drums added as if Vaughan's endless light were suddenly seen through a prism. The kaleidoscopic build-up of sound is then maintained until the last moment, though the effect of the sudden close is not to prolong the vision into eternity but to snatch it rudely from our eyes.

Oliver Knussen conducted a firm, coherent account of the score. The remainder of this concert, conducted by Ivan Fischer, was despatched undistinguished. In Imogen Cooper's account of Mozart's F major Piano Concerto, K459, there were many points of admirable musicianship, but her discursive playing had no sharp focus and she was continually undermined - as were Stravinsky and Beethoven elsewhere in the evening - by Fischer's crashingly obvious direction. Nicholas Kenyon

Concerts in London

Nicholas Kenyon
Vasary/Hirst/Langridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Janáček has made his last appearance at this year's South Bank Summer Music, and with him the spirit of Kamila Stösslova, the woman behind both the Vixen and the Second String Quartet. On Wednesday she appeared as Zefka the gypsy girl, in a performance of the Diary of One who Disappeared by Philip Langridge, Linda Hirst and Tamas Vasary which was utterly compelling in its fusion of meticulous, minutely served detail and vibrant unpredictability.

It was a pity that the opportunity was missed to exploit the hall's facilities and grant for once Janáček's wish that this drama of dream, seduction and surrender "be sung in semi-darkness, if possible with reddish lighting"; and a pity, too, that the performers did not risk even longer, more eloquent pauses at crucial dramatic points. But this was a performance of subtly flickering, volatile emotions, rather than of overtly dramatic strokes: in Mr Langridge's voice, passion would quiver through a portamento, tenderness blend into harmonic change, and muscle flex to the full only to carry the force of Janáček's arching "melodic curves of speech", as in his final fierce and resilient top C. Linda Hirst's was a strange and strong-edged vocal characterization, with the three off-stage voices (Sarah Leonard, Judith Rees and Joyce Jarvis) providing, in their perfectly judged acoustic balance, a haunting distancing right at the drama's heart. Dialogue, reflection and undercurrent were indivisibly shared in Mr Vasary's piano playing. Hilary Finch

Jales from HOLLYWOOD
The new play by Christopher Hampton. "A fascinating play about the colony of German writers who found themselves exiled in Tinseltown in the 1940s..."
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Thurs at 7.00. Then Sept 5, 6, 7 (m&e), 14, 15
(Bargain Night), 21, 22, 23, 24 (m&e), 26, 27
Production is at The Bristol Hippodrome Oct 3 to 8

THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

Table listing the top 1000 companies in 1982/1983, including names like Shell, BP, and ICI.

Fraser shares jump 16p

Shares in House of Fraser jumped 16p yesterday to 244p on persistent buying from about five main sources.

Fraser shares jump 16p

Only the index-linked sector bucked the trend with gains of more than 1p, investors once again attracted by the 3 per cent to 4 per cent return over inflation offered by the sector.

figures which left the shares unchanged at 240p.

News that Gulf is after all to develop its offshore Irish oil field prompted buyers to rush into Atlantic Resources.

RECENT ISSUES table listing various financial products and their prices.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 717.4 up 0.8 FT GITS: 79.71 up 0.8 FT All Shares: 456.14 up 1.82 ...

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5080 down 1.1 cents ...

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9% Finance houses base rates 10 ...

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$422.50 pm \$423.26 ...

TODAY

Interims: Marlin Black, L.M. Ericsson, Exeter Building and Construction ...

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Davenport Knitwear, Allen House, Newark Street, Liverpool (11.30) ...

Trade figures hit sterling

Sterling was under sporadic pressure in the foreign exchange markets yesterday because of the poor July trade figures ...

Battle for games manufacturer is not over, says BPCC chief

Waddington beats off Maxwell as institutions switch allegiance

An about-turn by three institutional shareholders yesterday snatched an expected victory from Mr Robert Maxwell in his battle for control of John Waddington, the Monopoly games manufacturer.

The three institutions withdrew their acceptances of the £18m bid from Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation at the eleventh hour.

Mr Maxwell said: "I regret the withdrawal of acceptances which presumably is largely due to people who accepted the cash offer of 249.5p which they would receive in several weeks time if the offer goes unconditional."

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City Editor's Comment

Cash flow problems on a massive scale

Brazil's original multi-billion dollar rescue package fell apart because it was too small and Brazil was unable to meet conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

Rescue deal for Capper-Neill

An Arab construction company and British banks have organized a major capital reconstruction of Capper-Neill, a leading manufacturer of process plant, to save the company from an unexpected threat of bankruptcy.

Capper-Neill, of St Helens, discussed yesterday that for the year to the end of March it had made a pre-tax loss of £3.1m after incurring a pre-tax profit of £2.75m last year.

CCC will also have an option for 10 years to buy another £7.7m shares at par, and has agreed to make a £1.87m secured loan to Capper-Neill, bringing its total injection to £6m.

BSR back in profit as debts decline

BSR International, the audio, electronics and kitchenware group, is back in profit at the interim stage after its make-or-buy capital reconstruction this year.

The interim results include the £1m costs associated with the closure of a loss making Capetronics electronics factory in the US, and losses of £800,000 from BSR's British operations, which employ 4,000 people in the West Midlands.

Blue Circle dividend disappoints market

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, yesterday reported a small fall in pre-tax profits for the first half of this year.

Blue Circle Industries Half-year to 30.6.83 Pre-tax profit £48.2m (25.5m) Stated earnings 25.5p (31p) Turnover £40.8m (37.5m) Net interim dividend 6p (same) Share price 481p down 15p Yield 6%

Bigger stake for Holmes a Court

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, has increased his holdings in Fleet Holdings, the Express Newspapers group, from 3 per cent to 4.2 per cent, he confirmed in London yesterday.

Surge in leading shares

New York, (Reuter) - The Wall Street stock market yesterday began higher, but turned mixed as blue chip issues outperformed secondary stocks.

WALL STREET Dupont fell 1/8 to 52; Lockheed fell 3 3/8 to 103. General Dynamics fell 2 5/8 to 46 1/8; Eastman Kodak fell 1/8 to 67 3/8; Delta Airlines fell 1/8 to 30 and Minnesota Mining fell 1/8 to 79.

Britoil tops forecasts

Britoil, the former state-owned oil group, yesterday reported profits for its first full half-year period that were higher than its forecast, but lower than the City had expected.

Britoil Half-year to 30.6.83 Pre-tax profit 227.5m (not applicable) Stated earnings 10.64p (n/a) Turnover 2568 (n/a) Net interim dividend 3.3p (n/a) Share price 288p

Britain wins larger share of £1bn nuclear work

Britain has won a larger share of £1bn nuclear work from the Central Electricity Generating Board, according to a spokesman for the Sizewell nuclear power station in Suffolk.

Sizewell victory for industry

Britain's industry has responded to a challenge from the nuclear power programme to take orders worth millions of pounds from foreign companies which were originally in line to supply equipment for the Sizewell nuclear power station in Suffolk.

After talks with the Central Electricity Generating Board, British suppliers have met specification requirements which means that apart from several million pounds worth of specialized equipment most of the overall estimated cost of £1,147m will be spent in Britain.

supply Sizewell with the main forgings because of the extensive qualification tests required for components for pressurized water reactors.

Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. Luxembourg

Announcement to Shareholders

Approval was given at the General Meeting of Shareholders of Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. ("TDBH") held on August 25, 1983 for all items on the agenda, including a distribution - for each 100 TDBH shares outstanding - of a dividend consisting of US\$ 800 in cash, 27* American Express Company ("Amexco") common shares, and 10 warrants to purchase 20* Amexco common shares at US\$ 27.50 per share.

2. Upon presentation of coupons 13 and 14 the paying agents will acknowledge to the shareholder his right to the appropriate number of shares and warrants, and, in accordance with his instructions, have the certificates made out, registered, and delivered.

The following should be considered by shareholders who have TDBH shares in bearer form: 1. As from the distribution date (August 29, 1983) each shareholder should present coupons 12, 13 and 14 of his TDBH shares either directly to one of the paying agents mentioned herebelow, or request his own bank to do so on his behalf.

3. There will be no delivery of fractional shares or warrants. Fractional rights will be paid in cash at the market value of the shares and warrants as of the date of presentation of the coupons.

Traditionally the electricity industry, the NCB's biggest customer, accepts annual price rises fixed at the inflation rate, at present 4.2 per cent.

The distribution will continue until October 28, 1983. After October 28, 1983, the Company will sell any shares and warrants of American Express Company not distributed due to non-presentation of coupons 13 and 14, and will hold the US dollar proceeds of such sale for any payment against future presentation of coupons 13 and 14.

Manufacturers Hanover Limited, 8 Princes Street, London EC2P 2EN Banque Internationale A Luxembourg S.A., 2 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg ...

*calculated after the effect of the 3 for 2 stock split of 10th August 1983

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

W. N. I.
Half-year profit £1,000 loss £23,000.
Stated earnings 5.83p (loss 2.55p).
Turnover £4.4m (£4.4m).
Net dividend none.

Supra
Half-year profit £1m (£1.5m).
Stated earnings 10.67p (18.88p).
Turnover £15.1m (£10.3m).
Net interim dividend 5.86p (same).
Net dividend none.

Ingers
Year to 31.7.83.
Attributable profit £7,904 (£22,916).
Stated earnings 0.08p (0.33p).

J. Saville Gordon Group
Year to 30.4.83.
Pre-tax profit £286,000 (£1.1m).
Stated earnings 2.5p (6.1p).
Turnover £1.6m (£5.2m).
Net dividend 1.5p (2.21p).
Share price 61p up 5p. Yield 7.5%.

Beneone Crisps
Half-year to 26.5.83.
Trading profit £101,000 (£147,000).
Turnover £2.1m (£1.8m).
Net interim dividend None.
Share price 90p down 1p.

Queens Meat Houses
Nine months to 10.7.83.
Pre-tax profit £1.6m (£1.1m).
Stated earnings 1.5p (1.5p).
Net interim dividend 0.665p (0.65p).
Share price 35.5p unchanged.
Yield 5.4%.

Yorkshire Chemicals
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £964,000 (loss £275,000).
Turnover £13.8m (£10m).
Net interim dividend None.
Share price 79p down 3p.
Yield 1.2%.

Silverthorne Group
Half-year to 2.7.83.
Pre-tax profit £125,000 (£89,000).
Stated earnings 1.33p (3.31p).
Turnover £1.8m (£1.8m).
Net interim dividend 0.5p (same).
Share price 30p. Yield 8.3%.
Dividend payable 23.9.83.

Scottish Investment Trust
Nine months to 31.7.83.
Pre-tax profit £5m (£5.2m).
Turnover £7.2m (£5.2m).
Share price 191p down 1p. Yield 3.5%.

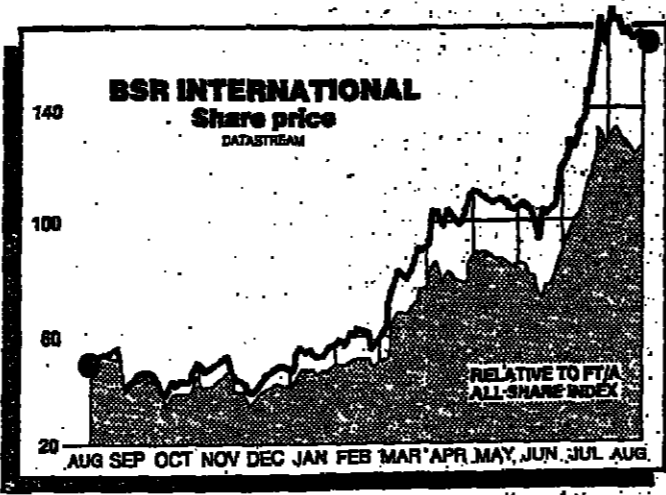
BRA Group
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £2.9m (£3.1m).
Stated earnings 1.42p (1.81p).
Turnover £7.7m (£7.6m).
Net interim dividend 0.84p (same).
Share price 39p down 1p. Yield 6.4%.

Investors' Notebook • edited by Michael Prest

Capper-Neill welcomes CCC strength

Capper-Neill
Year to 31.3.83
Pre-tax profit £2.1m (£1.1m) (profit £2.57m)
Turnover £26.4m (£108m)
Share price 18.5p

It is perhaps understandable that the directors of Capper-Neill should have been reluctant yesterday to explain the debacle which has befallen the company in the stewardship, but the shareholders deserved better. The uncertainty brought about the extraordinary turn of events was reflected in the share price, which initially rose 2p on the news to 19.5p before closing at 16.5p.



Two things are clear. The first is that Capper-Neill should be far stronger financially than for several years. The link with CCC, which effectively became the owner, will give access to the Middle Eastern markets which were part of Capper-Neill's problem. The cash injection, totalling £13m, and the replacement of part of the crippling overdraft by a £14m loan from the banks, will give all the breathing space for which the company can reasonably ask to carry it through a period of readjustment.

But the second point may be more important, given recent events. The existing board will, to all intents and purposes, be entirely replaced, and the company will be run by directors who command CCC's support. Shareholders can be forgiven for feeling concern about a management which, after announcing an interim loss of only £700,000 in December and expressing its confidence in the company's long term prospects, reveals, barely six months later, extraordinary debits of more than £20m. Without the rescue by CCC and the banks, Capper-

Neill would have been hard pressed to continue trading.

For the moment, therefore, shareholders and employees can rest a little easier. Doubtless the banks still smarting from criticism about their handling of Stone Plant, will feel that they have done their bit to keep an important part of British industry alive. It may well be that there was little choice, given the disastrous composition of the balance sheet, but they should be allowed credit for helping to bail Capper-Neill out.

What the long term holds, however, remains obscure. Capper-Neill says that CCC is expanding its mechanical construction operations, so there will presumably be a part for Capper-Neill to play in that development. Capper Pipe Service has been a sound business and will probably continue.

But the major questions are about the future of the process plant engineering, an important and prestigious part of the company, and of the manufacturing side.

BSR Int

BSR International
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £2.2m (£1.8m).
Stated earnings 3p (1.7p loss).
Turnover £12.1m (£10.2m).
Net interim dividend 0.5p (nil).
Share price 178p up 10p.

Worse news comes for those who believed M&P's future lay in its high technology low cost medical scanner because of conservative accounting on its heavy development costs. These are still mounting and final approval of health and social security approval has still to come.

But from the company's point of view it looks like a sensible redefinition of priorities. B&S denies that the decision to charge £322,000 against first half profits, with perhaps more in the second, is either the result of auditors' pressure or "new broom" housekeeping by Mr David MacDonald, the new chairman.

The Marples companies are being bought by a Jersey-based subsidiary of LTA, the Dutch contractor and part of Anglo American which owns 21 per cent of B&S's shares.

But B&S is adamant that it was not a cosy deal organized by a worried big shareholder.

The problem was not that big projects like the Hongkong Metro have lost money, just that they have not contributed

for the six months to June 30, against losses of £1.8m at the same stage last year. The share price was further strengthened by the drop in short-term debt from £42m to £2.8m, and in total group debt from £107m to £78m.

The British side should return trading profits by the end of the year after interim losses of £800,000 and total losses last year of £1.5m.

Investors must now look for growth from BSR's high technology, audio, computer and electronics business in the Far East and US to make up for the lack of British profits.

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Dale cuts losses and boosts dividend

Dale Electric International
Year to 1.5.83
Pre-tax profit £1.93m (£1.09m)
Stated earnings 9.84p (6.77p)
Turnover £38.3m (£31.4m)
Net dividend 4p (3p)
Share price yield 13.14
Dividend payable

During the year Dale also sold W. E. Conyers to BKB for £70,000. The company lost money in seven of the nine years it was part of Dale - £150,000 last year.

Dale holds 49 per cent of Ottomators Dale in Mexico. This operation lost £52,000 due to the massive devaluation in Mexico and currency fluctuations.

The order book shows enough orders for six months' production and turnover has risen from £31.4m to £38.3m.

The Bath and Portland Group

The Bath and Portland Group
Half-year to 30.4.83
Pre-tax profit £168,000 (£1.8m)
Stated earnings 0.34p (4.97p)
Turnover £42m (£41.8m)
Net interim dividend 2.5p (2.5p)
Share price 114p, up 11p
Dividend payable 24.9.83

Bath and Portland Group said yesterday that it is disposing of its civil engineering interests which were one of a main component of the company.

Only a few years ago, the civil engineering companies were building highways and power stations around the world under the Marples Ridgway name and contributing half the company's total turnover.

But in the first of this year civil engineering has turned in a loss of more than £15m, dragging group profits down to just £163,000, with a loss of at least another £500,000 to come in the second half as contracts are run off.

WALL STREET

Company	Price	Change
AMT	100 1/4	+
AT&T	48 1/2	+
IBM	165 1/2	+
GE	50 1/2	+
Westinghouse	40 1/2	+
Rockwell	45 1/2	+
Boeing	100 1/2	+
Lockheed	110 1/2	+
McDonnell Douglas	55 1/2	+
Northrop	45 1/2	+
Raytheon	40 1/2	+
TRW	45 1/2	+
General Dynamics	45 1/2	+
Grumman	45 1/2	+
Hughes	45 1/2	+
Rockwell International	45 1/2	+
Boeing Defense	45 1/2	+
Boeing Commercial	45 1/2	+
Boeing Aerospace	45 1/2	+
Boeing Satellite	45 1/2	+
Boeing Space	45 1/2	+
Boeing Systems	45 1/2	+
Boeing Technology	45 1/2	+
Boeing Services	45 1/2	+
Boeing Support	45 1/2	+
Boeing Training	45 1/2	+
Boeing Maintenance	45 1/2	+
Boeing Repair	45 1/2	+
Boeing Overhaul	45 1/2	+
Boeing Refurbishment	45 1/2	+
Boeing Restoration	45 1/2	+
Boeing Preservation	45 1/2	+
Boeing Disposal	45 1/2	+
Boeing Recycling	45 1/2	+
Boeing Reuse	45 1/2	+
Boeing Salvage	45 1/2	+
Boeing Scrap	45 1/2	+
Boeing Waste	45 1/2	+
Boeing Pollution	45 1/2	+
Boeing Safety	45 1/2	+
Boeing Security	45 1/2	+
Boeing Health	45 1/2	+
Boeing Environment	45 1/2	+
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سكزامن الأصل

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

How the building societies have forgotten about profitability

BUILDING SOCIETY ADVERTISING 1981/82

(£'000s as measured by Meas. "broad" rate card)

	1981			1982		
	Spend	Rank	%TV	Spend	Rank	%TV
Hullfax	4625	2	53	6808	1	65
Abbey National	4574	1	31	5236	2	25
Leeds Permanent	3579	3	44	4850	3	69
Bradford & Bingley	2504	6	35	4431	4	30
Nationwide	2393	5	48	3735	5	52
Anglia	1614	7	57	2763	6	65
Woolwich	2065	4	70	2480	7	76
Leicester Alliance	775	9	-	1795	8	57
Provincial	499	12	-	1888	9	89
	1190	8	36	1848	10	50



On the road: touring building society in TV commercial

holders - and the other was the link-up with National Girobank. The Leicester was devised by Mr Lacy and his newly-appointed advertising agency, Wight Collins Rutherford Scott. According to Mr Robin Wight, the agency chairman: "Research showed us that there was no great difference in the minds of the public between the Leicester and other societies, so we developed the Leicestercard as a 'separator', to distinguish. The Leicestercard offers share-account holders cheque book accounts and personal loans, together with discounts on a wide range of goods and services. The launch, in February last year, received great publicity even before the first advertising positioning the Leicester as the 'forester' - began. In the space of 10 months we received applications for 125,000 Leicestercards," says Mr Lacy. "We have now had more than 200,000 and by the end of the year it will be 300,000." In the month after the launch, the Leicester opened a record number of accounts and the growth has continued. Yet the fact remains that the other big societies drew in deeper faster last year by their credit method of offering interest premiums. The Leicester now seems likely to hedge its bets and follow the other societies' tactics in addition to its own marketing efforts. The five biggest societies are to offer a 1 1/2 per cent differential over basic share rate from September 1, and Mr Lacy believes that Leicester has at least built a stronger springboard from which to challenge them on their own terms. An announcement is possible within the week.

APPOINTMENTS

Change at Midland

Midland Bank Mr Hugh O'Brien, group treasurer, Thomas Cook, is to be assistant general manager (financing operations).

The British Overseas and Commonwealth Banks' Association: Mr Peter Weller, general manager of Standard Chartered Bank, has been elected deputy chairman. Mr G. T. Watson has been appointed honorary secretary.

Smn Alliance Insurance Group: Mr J. Rochelle, manager, computer department, is to be group computer manager of management services and planning division. Mr E. G. Coward is now group commercial underwriting manager with responsibility for home division commercial underwriting and overseas division international underwriting.

Hawker Siddeley Group: Mr S. D. Goward has joined the board of Brook Control Gear as director and general manager. Mr J. L. Fleming has been appointed to the board of Crompton Instruments (South East Asia), as director and general manager.

Supra Sureparts: Mr A. A. Long has become managing director.

Enakilda Securities: Mr William Tyne is joining the board with special responsibility for the company's capital markets activities in the US. He will be based in London.

WARRINGTON BRYMAN JERSEY LTD., 24-25 Broad St., St. Helens, Merseyside. Ch. No. 0234 74710. Agency: Midland Trust Ltd. 100, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	10 1/4 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %

Of all the areas of business which have discovered marketing in recent years, few have embraced it with more enthusiasm than the building societies. Heavy television advertising campaigns, wave after wave of "new products" in the form of higher-interest accounts aimed at different groups of savers, and the use of popular children's characters such as Mickey Mouse and Paddington Bear all testify to the eagerness with which the hitherto staid and slow societies have taken on board the lessons of the cornflake and soap powder companies.

Despite recent problems, the change of approach and huge increase in marketing expenditure (£44m on advertising last year, compared with £4m ten years ago) seems at first sight to have been amply justified. Last year the building societies recorded the highest net receipts in their history and all but one of the top ten societies, which tend to be the biggest spenders, increased their assets by 17 per cent or more.

"Perhaps that suggests that societies' marketing strategies were highly successful," says one building society executive, Mr Richard Lacy, and most societies might agree. "I believe that is a very naive view of our industry's performance," he adds.

"Many societies seem to me to have spent much of the last two years raising extra funds at the highest cost, advertising premium-rate accounts and transferring a huge volume of profitable share account funds. This, to me, is not carefully planned marketing - it is the strategy of growth at all costs." Mr Lacy is not against building societies spending heavily on advertising and marketing. Indeed, as general manager in charge of marketing at the Leicester Building Society, he has spent as much as most on television commercials and launch of new schemes, most notably the Leicestercard and a tie-up with National Girobank that has given the society 20,000 new Post Office outlets. The Leicester was the 10th biggest society last year, with assets of £2,060m.

His concern is that most societies have lost sight of the need for profitability in the face of growth and market share. In this, they are no different from some consumer marketing

companies. But what makes building societies a special case is the fact that they are not in business to make a profit. The temptation, therefore, to spend heavily - on image-building advertising and premium interest rates to savers - is unchecked by normal considerations of cost efficiency.

"Many societies have competed on price, and price alone, no matter what the cost," says Mr Lacy. "In both the short and, more importantly, longer term, most societies' cost of funds - the average rate they pay to all their investors - has risen significantly."

"Almost the only reaction to the challenge we have faced for personal savings has been to pay more to investors," often squeezing lending margins.

Even though building societies do not need to make a profit, Mr Lacy points out, they must still provide a margin between investors' and borrowers' rates which, after expenses and taxation, is sufficient to maintain adequate reserves. "What we are talking about is commercial sense and social responsibility - the ability to provide a mortgage at least cost, and the way to do this is to raise investment at least cost."

The Leicester's marketing strategy over the past two years has been highly successful in these terms. For though the Leicester increased its assets by only 13.5 per cent last year, compared with the 17 per cent and more growth of the other top societies, it topped the league in terms of raising its funds at the lowest cost.

"The Leicester's average cost of funds was lower than all the others in the top ten last year and in 1983 we have reduced that cost even further," says Mr Lacy. This has been achieved by

concentrating the society's marketing efforts on increasing its share account business, rather than that of the premium interest accounts, which is what most building societies promote these days. The share account, because it pays out less interest, is naturally the most "profitable", and last year 62 per cent of the Leicester's investment balances was held in share accounts.

The marketing challenge for the Leicester was to make its share account attractive to investors, despite the fact that every other building society was offering the same rate of interest and that other societies had more branches. The answer to the first problem was the Leicestercard - a discount card available to share account

holders - and the other was the link-up with National Girobank.

The Leicestercard offers share-account holders cheque book accounts and personal loans, together with discounts on a wide range of goods and services.

The launch, in February last year, received great publicity even before the first advertising positioning the Leicester as the "forester" - began. "In the space of 10 months we received applications for 125,000 Leicestercards," says Mr Lacy. "We have now had more than 200,000 and by the end of the year it will be 300,000."

In the month after the launch, the Leicester opened a record number of accounts and the growth has continued. Yet the fact remains that the other big societies drew in deeper faster last year by their credit method of offering interest premiums. The Leicester now seems likely to hedge its bets and follow the other societies' tactics in addition to its own marketing efforts.

The five biggest societies are to offer a 1 1/2 per cent differential over basic share rate from September 1, and Mr Lacy believes that Leicester has at least built a stronger springboard from which to challenge them on their own terms. An announcement is possible within the week.

DEREK CROUCH

Interim Report for the Half Year to 30th June, 1983

	1983 First six months £000's	1982 First six months £000's	Year £000's
Turnover	28,825	28,789	29,806
Earnings before Tax and Interest	857	1,348	2,613
Interest Payable	680	834	1,739
Earnings before Tax	177	414	874
Earnings after all Charges and Taxation	285	210	(309)
Dividends	203	203	650
Earnings per Share	2.29p	1.89p	6.5p

Opencast mining in the U.K. is still profitable, but at a reduced level due principally to the continuing restrictions being placed on output over and above contractual amounts.

In the U.S.A., coal markets are also suffering from the world surplus and Power Inc., the company set up in the U.S.A. five years ago, incurred a loss after interest.

Derek Crouch has now taken complete control of Power Inc. with effect from 18th July by buying out, for a nominal sum, the 40% minority interest held by the two American fuel distribution firms who partnered Derek Crouch in setting up the venture in 1978. The principal asset of Power Inc. is some 20,000 acres of coal-bearing land in central Pennsylvania with reserves of approximately 20 million tons of coal immediately available for strip mining. A £1.75m. washing plant was commissioned by Power Inc. last year to upgrade the quality of the output and open the way to improved outlets and prices and as a result of the improvement of quality Power Inc., has maintained its share of a highly competitive market. The Board believes that, although the coal market in the U.S.A., as in other countries, is soft at the moment, the longer term prospects are good. Further investment was required to take advantage of future opportunities and the minority partners were unable to go along this road as a result they agreed to sell their interests in Power Inc., to Derek Crouch. They will, however, continue to act as selling agents for Power Inc. although not on an exclusive basis. The Board believes that the consolidation of Derek Crouch's U.S. interest will bring benefits in the longer term.

On the construction side, the Company is continuing its search for more opportunities in private development areas, reducing total reliance on work in the public sector. Claims and final accounts are still proving extremely difficult to progress and finalise. Claims are only taken into account when agreed.

As yet, there are no signs of an upturn in the construction industry. The Directors of Derek Crouch intend to pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.83p which will be payable on 28th October, 1983.

DEREK CROUCH PLC

Head Office: Peterborough PE6 7UW

Telephone: Peterborough (0733) 222341 Telex: 32129



SUMMARY OF INTERIM RESULTS

	First Six Months (Unaudited)	
	1983 £m	1982 £m
Turnover	121.1	102.2
Operating Profit	8.6	3.0
Profit before Taxation	6.2	(1.8)
Profit after Taxation	4.1	(2.0)
Earnings per Share	3.0p	(1.7)p

HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST SIX MONTHS

- Group Restructuring well advanced opening the way to a strong turnaround in trading performance
 - Group Sales up 19% over first half of 1982
 - Successful Rights Issue and placement of new shares in April raised £24.2m. net of expenses
 - Balance Sheet strengthened during the half year
 - Group has diversified further from former traditional business and is now predominantly engaged in the development and manufacturing of high technology electronic components
 - Continuing improvement and strong profit growth forecast for second half
 - Restoration of Interim Dividend
 - Tax residence of parent company successfully moved to Hong Kong
- Operating Profit increased to 7% of Sales
 - Pretax profit improved by £8.0m. over comparable period in 1982
 - Astec International continues strong growth with substantial increases in both turnover and profits
 - Net Short Term debt reduced from £42.0m. at end of 1982 to £2.8m.
 - Half Year Interest Cost reduced from £4.6m. to £2.4m.
 - Operating profit interest cover raised from 0.7 to 3.6 times
 - Shareholders funds increased from £27.6m. at 31 December 1982 to £55.1m.
 - Gearing reduced from 172% to 48%
 - Joint venture in California set up to exploit micro wafer media for computer mass storage systems
 - Acquisition of electronics royalty agreement completed
 - New logo identifies group's continuing diversification into High Technology Electronics
 - 0.5p on the Ordinary Shares has been declared (1982 Nil)
 - Trustee status maintained
 - Dividends from Hong Kong subsidiaries can now be received free of further tax charge

BSR INTERNATIONAL PLC

To obtain copies of the full interim report, please write to: The Secretary, BSR International PLC, High Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4QG, England



Drillers at work on the first oil operated Beatrice A Platform.

Britoil's first interim results - a successful period

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)	Six Months ended 30.6.83 \$ million	Pro Forma Year ended 31.12.82 \$ million
Turnover	568.8	1,088.0
Operating profit	287.2	544.9
Net Interest payable	(12.4)	(30.6)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	274.8	514.3
Taxation		
Supplementary petroleum duty	-	(162.8)
Petroleum revenue tax	(138.1)	(152.1)
Corporation tax	(83.5)	(96.8)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation before extraordinary item	53.2	102.6
Extraordinary item (Privatisation expenses)	-	(3.6)
Profit for the financial period	53.2	99.0
Dividends payable	(16.5)	(18.8)
Amount set aside to reserves	36.7	80.2
Earnings per share	10.64p	n/a
Funds generated from operations less tax paid	276.5	577.3
Additions to fixed assets	153.9	316.3

Review of Activities

Britoil's equity production for the six months to 30 June 1983 remained steady at around 14

Mourie likely to lead New Zealanders, despite denial
Most of the victorious All Blacks will defect to professional circus

From Ray Cairns, Christchurch
The David Lord's professional Rugby Union seems set for its January debut in Glasgow and Wembley with virtually the entire New Zealand All Blacks team which recently crushed the British Lions.



Mourie: successful author

Impeccable sources reveal that of the 17 players who took the field for the All Blacks in their last five international matches and the five other reserves, a minimum of 15 of them and as many as 17, will come under the wing of Lord, the Sydney journalist.

The rewards are considerable, and under the just way that leading players are willing to risk financial ruin, though the mood of the grass roots Rugby fanatics here is rapidly becoming one of ready acceptance of the inevitability of it.

Three knock out tournaments are to be held each year, and each is to be worth £16,000 - to each player. With losses, the New All Blacks have been told by the "accountant" in their ranks, also David Lord's New Zealand "representative", that they can expect something in the region of £130,000 over the first two years of the planned three-year cycle.

The Australian team is also taking shape. Informed sources reveal that it could be that only the veteran prop, Stan Fieckel and the flanker, Simon Pridmore will not take their places in the Australian professional line-up - though David Campese, the newest star, is strangely also a possible absentee - and the likes of Mark Leane will lead the recent past into the money game.

EQUESTRIANISM

Another German Derby

By Jenny MacArthur
Paul Schockemöhle from West Germany, the reigning European gold medal winner, returns to Hickstead this weekend to attempt a victory for the second year running in the Nations Cup.

Donna Bunn, the owner of Hickstead, created the Jumping Derby in 1961 and in doing so gave Britain a permanent show jumping cup, which has become the envy of the world. It is an annual, heart-thumping event, the 16 daunting fences, which include the Derby Bank with its 10ft 6in drop, has produced only 20 clear rounds in 22 years.

The West German's main British rivals will be Michael and John Whitaker, Michael a member of the winning Nations Cup team at Rotterdam last week, is riding Owen Gregory, the horse on whom he became the youngest ever winner of the Jumping Derby in 1980. His second ride is Disney Way, on whom he finished third last year.

BASKETBALL

Jeremich is a late winner for England

From Robert Fryce, Hamilton
Offences and dominated the rebounding, England stayed within reach by virtue of their patient team game and Simpson's shooting.

The England coach, Bill Bewick called a time-out, sketched in the details of a well-rehearsed set-play, and told his playmaker, Karl Tatham, to give the ball to Jeremich.

The first of many shocks on the third day of the world track championships happened before racing even began yesterday. When the Soviet Union's Dill-Bundi, who finished third last year, won the European silver medal winner, renews his outstanding partnership with Ryan's Son, the horse whose indomitable spirit once again kick-back has made him a favourite with the crowd.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for Football, Swimming, and other sports records.

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for Northern Premier League, Southern League, and other football leagues.

FOOTBALL

The auld enemy, with new friend

Scotland are planning a money-spinning soccer spectacle with England aimed at replacing the home internationals, which are to be discontinued.

The homebred folk certainly face a formidable task. This is the first of the autumn series of major tests for the Scottish FA, and a three-legged race's May Hill Stakes, the Hoover Fillies Mile at Ascot and the Chevaly Park Stakes at Newmarket are the other races with pattern race status.

Walker explained: "I have suggested this plan as I feel the fans were fed up with games against Northern Ireland and Wales. They need something new and exciting. A tournament at the end of a season has to offer something fresh or at least a change of scenery."

RACING: FILLIES FIRST CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR CLASS

Cowell set to raise his sights

By Michael Seely
Shoot Clear can give Bob Cowell the first pattern victory by winning this afternoon's Waterford Candelabra Stakes at Goodwood.

Feblies has the best form credentials. Clive Brittain's filly is impressive in her victories at Newbury and Newmarket, particularly on the second occasion when she gave weight and a three-length beating to the Queen Mary Stakes third, Saletta. Last time out at York, Feblies was by no means disgraced.

Draw: No advantage
Tote Double: 3.40, 4.40, Treble: 3.5, 4.10, 5.10
[Television: (TV) 2.35, 3.5, 4.0, 5.10]
2.35 EL CAPISTRANO STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £4,200; 7f) (30 runners)

County get their man for £40,000

The Football League secretary, Graham Kelly, helped settle a dispute between two of his "bosses" today when Nott County agreed to pay Norwich City £40,000 for Martin O'Neill.

Swansea lose edge
By Nicholas Harring
Whatever demon it was that possessed Chris Marustik to about turn and sweep a rash 40-yard pass back to Jimmy Rimmer on Wednesday, it has almost certainly ended Swansea's hopes of winning the European Cup Winners' Cup.

CYCLING

Doyle breakthrough

From John Wloockson, Zurich
He finished second to Doyle in the Kellogg's race at Nottingham 11 days ago. Today, they race against each other for a place in the final.

AMERICA'S CUP

Defender loses to the wind
Newport, Rhode Island (AP)
Defender's first victory in the start of the first race and was in front when the New York Yacht Club ordered the race abandoned when winds abated temporarily.

Goodwood

Draw advantage: high numbers best.
Tote: double 3.15, 4.15, Treble 2.45, 3.45, 4.45.
[Television: (BBC2) 2.15, 2.45, 3.15 and 3.45 races]
2.15 DRAWING ROOM STAKES (2-y-o: £2,442; 6f) (18 runners)

2.45 BENTUCK HANICAP (3-y-o: £2,585; 1m 4f) (7 runners)
2.55 WATERFORD CANDELABRA STAKES (Group III; 2-y-o fillies: £1,648; 4f)
3.15 WATERFORD CANDELABRA STAKES (Group III; 2-y-o fillies: £1,648; 4f)

Brighton results

1.30 SEAGULLS STAKES (2-y-o: £2,000; 2f)
2.00 THE HENRIETTA by The Minerva - Play at the Minerva (M Fozzard)
2.15 THE HENRIETTA by The Minerva - Play at the Minerva (M Fozzard)

Goodwood selections

2.35 Bonjour Tristesse, 3.5 Dagepang, 3.40 Hills Pageant, 4.10 Suffled, 4.40 Dual Investment, 5.10 Lovers Bird.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.35 Bonjour Tristesse, 3.5 Dagepang, 3.40 Grand Unit, 4.10 All Is Forgiven, 4.40 Madam Breeze, 5.10 Covers Bid.

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Beverly

2.15 AUGUST STAKES (2-y-o: £750; 7f)
ON MANOEUVRES by J. Mandrake - Wendenon (H Hodgson)
2.30 THE HENRIETTA by The Minerva - Play at the Minerva (M Fozzard)

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2.55 WATERFORD CANDELABRA STAKES (Group III; 2-y-o fillies: £1,648; 4f)
3.15 WATERFORD CANDELABRA STAKES (Group III; 2-y-o fillies: £1,648; 4f)

Brighton results

1.30 SEAGULLS STAKES (2-y-o: £2,000; 2f)
2.00 THE HENRIETTA by The Minerva - Play at the Minerva (M Fozzard)
2.15 THE HENRIETTA by The Minerva - Play at the Minerva (M Fozzard)

Goodwood selections

2.35 Bonjour Tristesse, 3.5 Dagepang, 3.40 Hills Pageant, 4.10 Suffled, 4.40 Dual Investment, 5.10 Lovers Bird.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.35 Bonjour Tristesse, 3.5 Dagepang, 3.40 Grand Unit, 4.10 All Is Forgiven, 4.40 Madam Breeze, 5.10 Covers Bid.

Goodwood

Draw advantage: high numbers best.
Tote: double 3.15, 4.15, Treble 2.45, 3.45, 4.45.
[Television: (BBC2) 2.15, 2.45, 3.15 and 3.45 races]
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Beverly

2.15 AUGUST STAKES (2-y-o: £750; 7f)
ON MANOEUVRES by J. Mandrake - Wendenon (H Hodgson)
2.30 THE HENRIETTA by The Minerva - Play at the Minerva (M Fozzard)

Beverly

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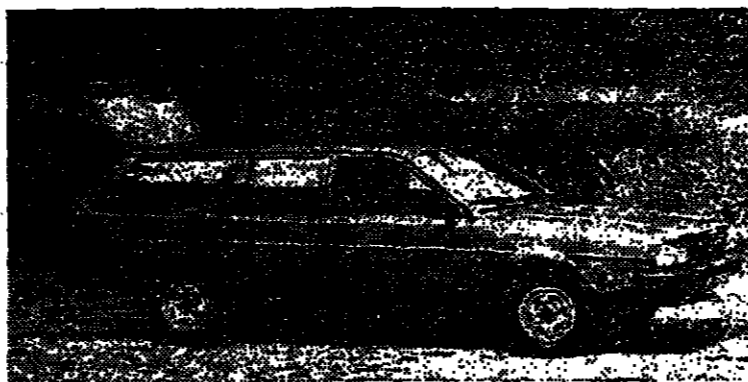
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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Peter Waymark

A rare estate from Germany



A touch of class - the Volkswagen Passat Estate

German motorists tend to be less keen on estate cars than we are and that helps to explain why, in the entire Volkswagen and Audi range, there is only one the Passat. Characteristically, it is a thorough job, carefully engineered, solidly built and well finished.

It is also a sensible size, long enough to give ample space for passengers and luggage (helped by front-wheel drive) and yet not too big to manoeuvre in traffic or take round narrow country lanes. Competing with models like the Ford Sierra, Renault 18 and Peugeot 305, it may not be the cheapest in its class but it is one of the best.

The Passat is available in three versions, according to engine as a 1.6 litre diesel, 1.8 litre petrol (the CL which is the subject of this test) and 1.9 litre petrol with five cylinders. The choice, essentially, is between fuel consumption and performance, the cars becoming quicker, but less economical, as engine sizes increase.

I have covered more than 1,200 miles in the CL in just over a week, most of the time with three other members of the family and a full boot, and the 1.8 unit seems an admirable compromise. The car lacks only two significant features of the more expensive model, a split (one-third/two-thirds) rear seat, and a built-in roof rack.

The first requirement of an estate is that it should be an adequate load carrier. The Passat is a most roomy car, which makes excellent use of its interior space so that even the tallest passengers should not feel cramped in the back seat, and it will take up to five people in comfort.

The flat load platform, slightly compromised by the intrusion of the wheel arches, is 4ft 8in wide, and it can be extended to a length of 5ft 7in if the rear seats is folded down. Even with the back seat in use, the luggage area should be big enough for most needs. The tailgate extends to the floor and a light shines if it is not properly shut.

The engine invariably started first time on the automatic choke (always a reassuring sign) and proved willing and lively, with impressive flexibility for its size. Even with a well laden car, there was enough power available to accelerate without continuous gear changes.

It is also smooth and quiet unit, even though it works hard in top (3,200rpm at 70mph) and would benefit from the fifth gear which is available on the 1.9 litre model. Fuel consumption is impressive. My average, over a variety of conditions from town centres to motorways, was 36mpg.

An aid to economy is a light on the fascia which comes on when its

time to change to a higher gear, and there is a consumption gauge, said to be accurate to 5 per cent.

The Passat is a pleasure to drive in every respect. The gearchange is crisp and accurate, the steering light and responsive, with good turning circle, and the brakes powerfully effective. Helped by the anti-roll bar (specially added for the estate), the car enjoys almost flat cornering and sure road holding, while good aerodynamics help stability and cut down wind noise.

At the wheel, the driver is favoured with height adjustment for his seat as well as the usual rake and reach, clear instruments and well placed controls. Visibility is helped by having outside mirrors on both sides of the car, as well as a standard tailgate wash/wipe and a large window area.

I have three criticisms. The most important is that the ventilation system is simply not up to the job in hot weather. This may be an exceptional summer but even along the motorway we found ourselves having to travel with the windows open, which makes the car noisier and less stable.

The second point is that the ride is on the firm side and while this may be partly a matter of taste, back seat passengers did complain of being shaken up on rough surfaces (where there can also be considerable tyre rumble). Finally, it is irritating not to have a louder tick when the trafficators are in operation. Many were the times I forgot to cancel them.

Vital Statistics

Model: Volkswagen Passat CL Estate.
Price: £25,898.
Engine: 1,781 cc four cylinder.
Performance: 0-60 mph 11.6 sec; top speed 105 mph.
Official fuel consumption: urban 33.2 mpg, 56 mph 42.2 mpg; 75 mph 33.2 mpg.
Length: 14 ft 10.7 in.
Insurance: Group 5.

Getting the hump

After extensive trials, road humps - or "sleeping policemen" - became legal on the public highways of Britain yesterday. Controversy has already been joined - will the humps prove to be a useful aid to road safety or an unwelcome hazard for drivers and motorcyclists?

The idea behind humps, which local authorities may now set up on roads subject to a 30 mph speed limit, is to slow traffic and thus reduce accidents.

Humps have been in operation on private estates for some years but not hitherto on public roads. The Department of Transport decided to legalize them after a series of experiments conducted by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory suggested that they could make a valuable contribution to reducing road casualties.

Eight areas were selected for the experiments, each running for a year. Several sorts of roads were used, from a seaside esplanade to a bus route through a residential estate and a shopping parade which normally attracts a large number of heavy vehicles.

Somehow in the middle of a long haul from Boulogne to Brittany recently I found that oncoming drivers were flashing their lights at me. It happened too often to ignore and eventually I pulled in to check the car. I had not left my headlights on, nor a door partly open and nor, thankfully, water gushing from my radiator.

I shrugged my shoulders, got back in the car and drove on. There was yet more flashing and then, on rounding a bend, I discovered the answer - a police speed trap.

Had I only known what my fellow drivers had been trying to do, I would have been grateful instead of apprehensive. Getting caught for speeding on the Continent is no laughing matter, because unlike here the police have powers to fine you on the spot.

As it happened, I was all the time obeying the law. But a straight, quiet French road, of which there are many once you leave the towns behind, is a temptation to put the foot down - particularly with a ferry to catch and time running short.



Humps for 1/2 mile

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- 1981 (Apr) ROLLS-ROYCE CORNICHE SALOON. Oxford Blue with a Dark Blue Everflex roof and Dark Blue leather upholstery. 11,000 miles... £42,500
- 1981 (Mar) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SPIRIT Garnet with Beige leather upholstery. 22,000 miles... £37,500
- 1980 (June) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II. Acrylic White with a Dark Blue Everflex roof and Dark Blue leather upholstery. 7,000 miles... £41,000
- 1980 (Apr) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II. Moorland with Dark Brown leather upholstery and Dark Brown top roll and knee roll. Front seat headrests. 10,000 miles... £29,800
- 1980 (Feb) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER WRAITH II WITH-OUT DIVISION. Silver Mink with a Dark Blue Everflex roof and Dark Blue leather upholstery. 7,000 miles... £32,500

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Steel gives an ultimatum on party manifesto

By Our Political Staff

Mr David Steel has made clear to his fellow MPs that should he be stripped of authority over the contents of the Liberal Party election manifesto he would find it impossible to continue as leader of the party.

Alliance 'real threat'

Continued from page 1 opposition because it was the easier party to beat. I thought she was trying to cling to Labour because she was sure she could always beat them...

Krakatoa volcano disaster 100 years ago today



Spectacular present-day photographs show the volcano between Java and Sumatra is still active a century after it erupted killing 36,000 people. The explosion was heard 3,000 miles away and meteorological effects could be seen in Britain.

Zia may open talks with parties

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

Speculation was rife in Karachi last night that the martial law regime of President Zia ul-Haq has decided to open talks with the political parties about the future of the country's democracy.

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

Continued from page 1 France would not interfere directly in the civil war between President Habré and Mr Goukouni Oueddei, leader of the Libyan-backed rebels.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions: Wish you were here - Nottingham artists at the seaside, Castle Museum, the Castle, Nottingham, Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45.

General

Carnival Glass - Poor Man's Tiffany, Castle Museum, the Castle, Nottingham; Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,218

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares.

ACROSS: 1 Was it form-filling that sent him mad? (5,4). 2 But grandia was no breaker of tables (5).

Flower Festival and exhibition

James Slade, Bolton Parish Church, Churchgate, Bolton, 9 am. Music: The Malings Proms: Recital by the Melos Ensemble.

Exhibitions in progress

Works of Albert Irvin, Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6.

Warning off

Have you warned your children lately not to go with strangers? The Central Office of Information has issued a timely memorandum.

New transmitter

Channel 4 will increase its potential viewing figures in the South-East by 300,000 from today when the Darvel television transmitting station opens.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Robert Walpole, 1st earl of Orford, statesman. Houghton Hall, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph Beethoven, 1770; Antoine-Louis Lavoisier, scientist, Paris, 1743.

Food prices

Supplies of fresh herring seem to have been unaffected by the EEC dispute over North Sea quotas.

The pound

Table with columns for Bank, Buy, Sell, and various international exchange rates.

Top films

Top box-office films in London: 1 Outspaced, 2 Outspaced II, 3 Superman III.

Roads

London and South-east: A406: Delays on Aylesford Road (North Circular Road) Edmonton, A23: Delays on Brighton road near Hickstead show ground.

The papers

The Harare Herald, the state-owned Zimbabwe daily, said that the talks between Dr Perez de Cuellar and Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Zoo guide

The Zoological Society of London has published a handsome new guide to the London Zoo at Regent's Park.

Weather

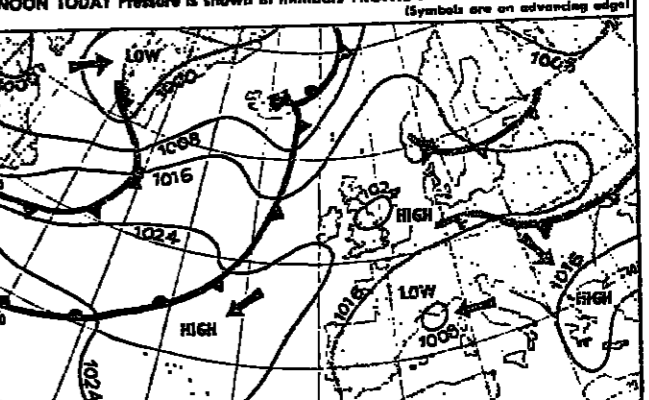
N and NW Scotland will be cloudy with some outbreaks of drizzle, and later in the day more widespread and persistent rain will spread from the W.

Lighting-up time

London 8:20 pm to 5:34 am. Bristol 8:41 pm to 5:44 am. Edinburgh 8:54 pm to 5:38 am.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; t, thunder.



High tides table with columns for location, AM, and PM tide times.

Around Britain table with columns for location, Sun Rain, and Max temperature.

Abroad table with columns for location, C, F, and other weather indicators.

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